BUMPER ISSUE NO. 63

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

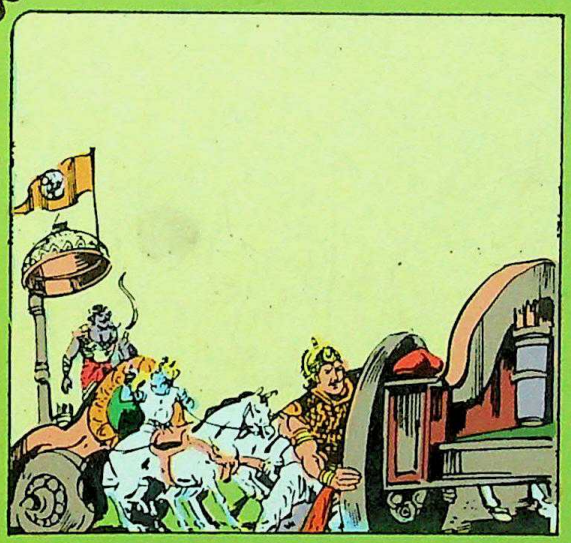
Rs. 20/-

CHITRA KATHA

MAHABHARATA

THE VICTORIOUS PANDAVAS

• KARNA IN COMMAND • THE KURUS ROUTED • AFTER THE WAR



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

THE VICTORIOUS PANDAVAS

Veda Vyasa's epic on the Bharata race was first recited in public by his disciple Vaishampayana at the Sarpa Satra (a 12-year-long snake sacrifice) conducted by King Janamejaya, the great grandson of Vyasa.

In our earlier volumes of the Mahabharata were described the growing animosity between the Kauravas and the Pandavas, the game of dice which led to the banishment of the Pandavas to the forest, the thirteen years spent in exile by the Pandavas and the confrontation of the rivals on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. Also narrated was the detailed account of each day of the battle till the fifteenth day when Drona was tricked into laying down his arms.

The following three volumes describe the appointment of Karna as commander of the Kauravas, his duel with Arjuna, Duryodhana's mace fight with Bheema, as well as the attack by Ashwatthama on the Pandava camp at night.

© 1989 India Book House Pvt. Ltd. All rights reserved, 1989
Published by H.G. Mirchandani, for India Book House Pvt. Ltd.,
Mahalaxmi Chambers, 22, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Bombay-400 026.
And printed by him at Prasad Offset Press Shed B&C.S. No.42
Hissa No.2 Sativali, Vasai Kaman Road, Vasai Taluka, Thane District.

Editor :
ANANT PAI

Script: Margie Sastry

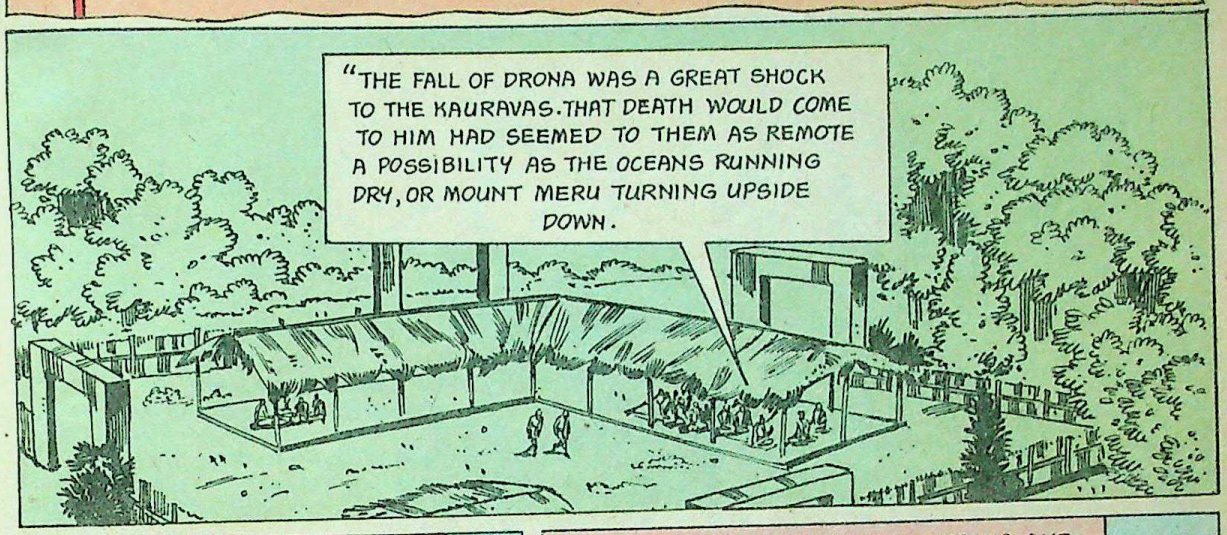
Artworks: Dilip Kadam

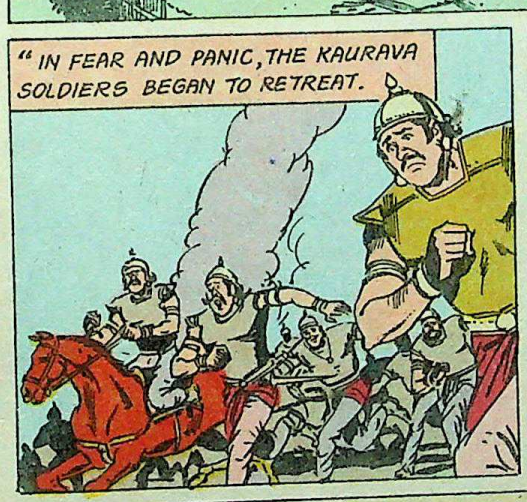
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

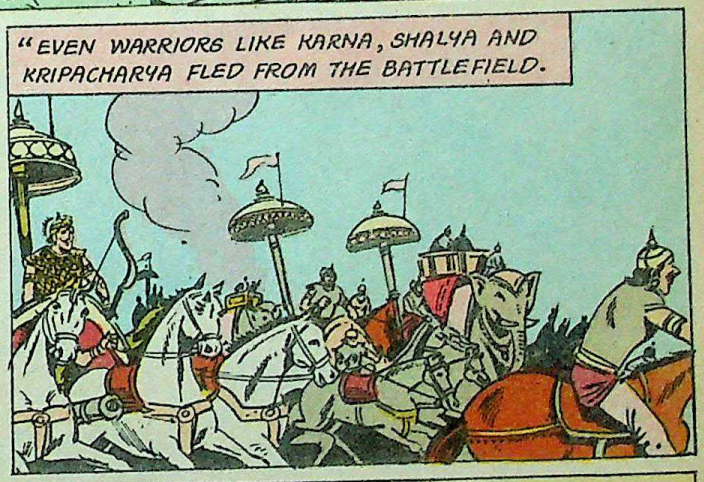
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

Mahabharata - 37

KARNA IN COMMAND







Sri Vidyabharati Book Sentinel, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"IN THE MIDST OF THE PANIC AND THE CONFUSION ASHWATTHAMA ADVANCED WITH HIS FORCES.

"SURPRISED TO SEE THE ARMY ON THE RUN, HE ASKED DURYODHANA —

WHY ARE THEY FLEEING? WHY DO NOT YOU STOP THEM?

O KING! HAS ANY LION-HEARTED WARRIOR FALLEN? IS THAT WHY THEY ARE FILLED WITH FEAR? TELL ME.

"DURYODHANA COULD NOT BEAR TO TELL HIM. WITH HESITATION, HE ASKED KRIPACHARYA TO SPEAK TO ASHWATTHAMA.

GURUDEVA, PLEASE TELL HIM THE NEWS.

"IN A PAINED VOICE KRIPACHARYA RELATED THE EVENTS TO ASHWATTHAMA.

...AND SO, ON CONFIRMING THE NEWS OF YOUR DEATH FROM THE RIGHTEOUS YUDHISHTHIRA, DRONA LAID DOWN HIS WEAPONS...

...AND DHRISHTADYUMNA SEIZED THE CHANCE TO KILL HIM.

CC-O. In Public Domain. Sri Vidyaranya Bharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"THE TUMULT OF CONCH SHELLS AND TRUMPETS HERALDING THE APPROACH OF THE KAURAVAS, INFUSED WITH ENTHUSIASM AGAIN, TOOK THE PANDAVAS BY SURPRISE.

"YUDHISHTHIRA ASKED ARJUNA —

DISHEARTENED BY DRONA'S DEATH, THE KAURAVAS HAD FLED. BUT NOW THEY APPEAR TO BE RETURNING TO FIGHT.

WHO COULD BE LEADING THEM BACK TO BATTLE? WHOSE LION ROAR DO WE HEAR?

"ARJUNA RESPONDED.

SURELY THAT IS ASHWATTHAMA'S CRY AS HE COMES TO AVENGE HIS FATHER'S DEATH. WHO CAN SAVE DHRISHTADYUMNA TODAY FROM THE VALOROUS ASHWATTHAMA?

YOU TOO ARE GUILTY, O KING, FOR HAVING DECEIVED DRONA WITH YOUR ONE LIE.

OH! WE MUST BE ALL GETTING OLD AND SENILE TO HAVE BEHAVED AS WE DID.

OUR GREED FOR A KINGDOM LED US TO THE THREEFOLD SIN OF KILLING DRONA WHO WAS A BRAHMANA, OUR ELDER AND OUR GURU. OH! I SHOULD DIE OF SHAME NOW.

Sri Vidyabharati Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"ALL THE PANDAVAS WERE DUMBSTRUCK AT ARJUNA'S OUTBURST. THEN BHEEMA SPOKE UP.

AH! MY RIGHTEOUS BROTHER! YOU SOUND LIKE A BRAHMANA GIVING A DISCOURSE. BUT AS A TRUE-BLOODED KSHATRIYA, THESE WORDS ILL BECOME YOU.

"ANGER WAS EVIDENT IN WHAT BHEEMA SAID.

WAS NOT OUR KINGDOM SEIZED BY UNFAIR MEANS? WAS IT JUSTICE TO BANISH US TO THE FOREST FOR THIRTEEN LONG YEARS? IT WAS YOU WHO SAID WE MUST WAGE WAR WITH THE KAURAVAS.

ALL THESE YEARS, WE HELD OUR ANGER IN CHECK BECAUSE YUDHISHTHIRA INSISTED THAT WE WAIT TILL OUR EXILE WAS OVER. THE VERY SAME YUDHISHTHIRA, WHOM YOU NOW CHOOSE TO FIND FAULT WITH.

AND TO TOP IT ALL, A WARRIOR OF YOUR STATURE PRAISES ASHWATTHAMA THUS! WHY, ARMED WITH MY MACE, I CAN DEAL WITH HIM ALL BY MYSELF.

"DHRISHTADYUMNA SAID—

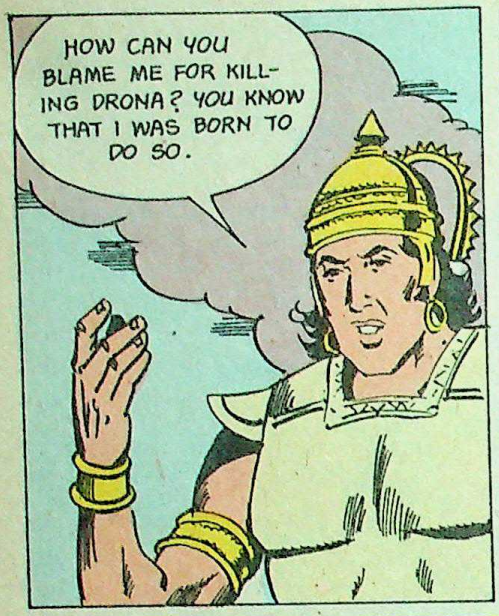
ARJUNA, YOU ARE FULL OF PRAISE FOR DRONA NOW. BUT YOU FORGET DRONA HAD FORSAKEN HIS DHARMA AS A BRAHMANA. HE PERFORMED NONE OF THE DUTIES* EXPECTED OF A BRAHMANA.

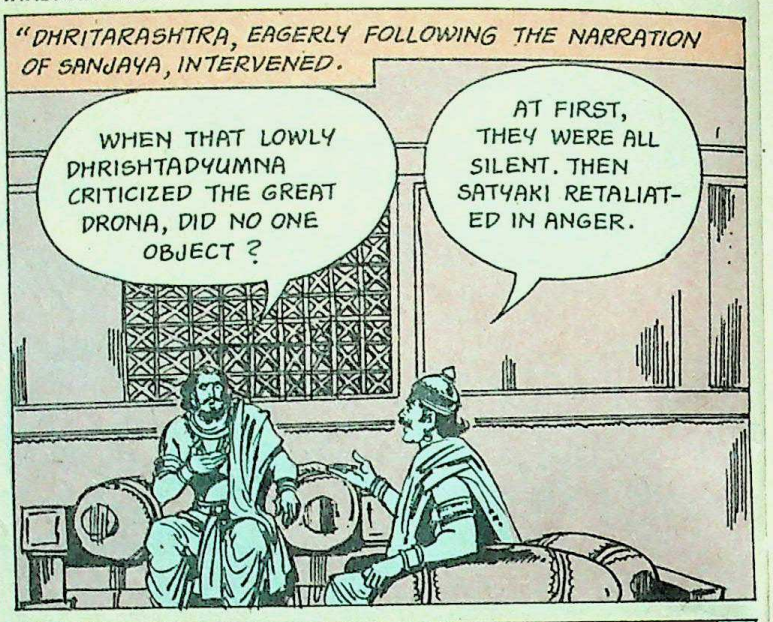
WAS IT FAIR ON HIS PART TO USE DIVINE WEAPONS ON HELPLESS SOLDIERS?

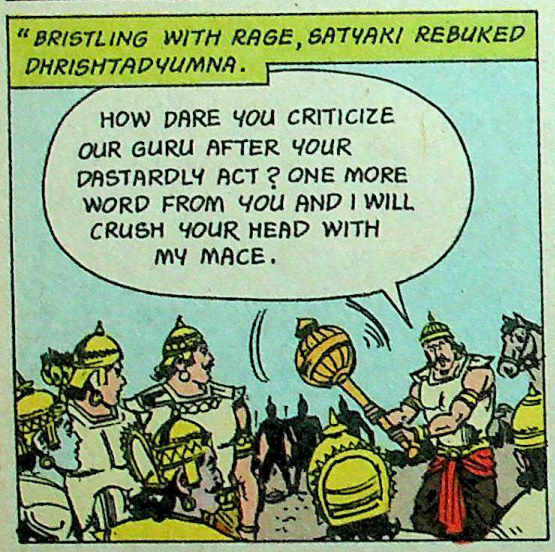
* ASSISTING IN SACRIFICES, PERFORMING SACRIFICES, GIVING AWAY GIFTS, RECEIVING GIFTS, TEACHING AND STUDYING.

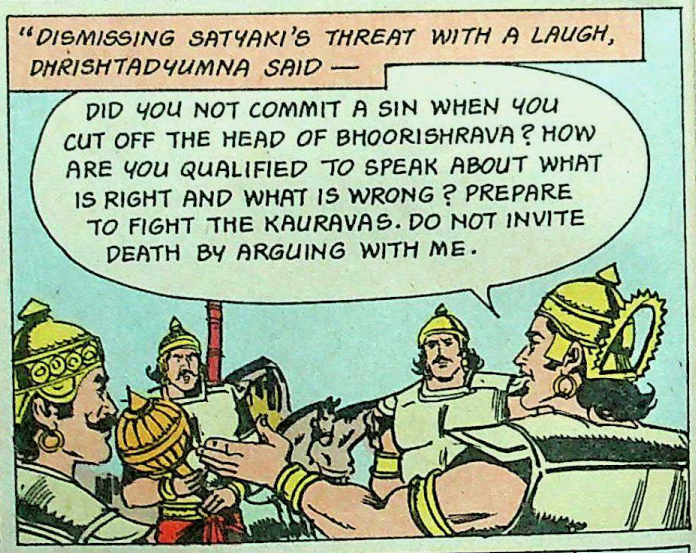
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

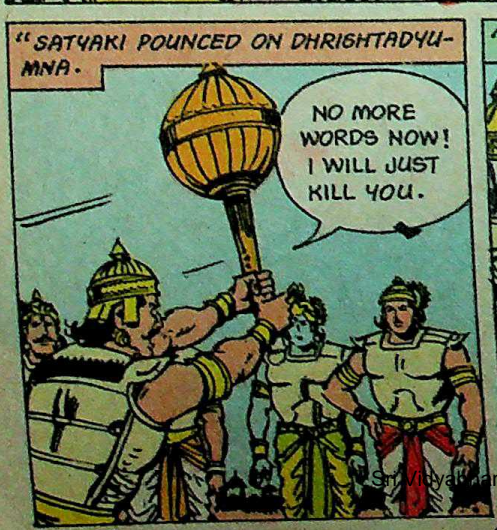
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri











CC-O. In Public Domain. Sri Vidyaranya Bharati Granthalaya Collection, Shringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"SAHADEVA ADDRESSED THE TWO HEROES —

COME! SHED YOUR ANGER AND FORGIVE EACH OTHER.

"KRISHNA AND YUDHISHTHIRA FINALLY MANAGED TO PACIFY THE TWO AND THE PANDAVAS PREPARED TO CONFRONT THE ENEMY AGAIN.

"LIKE TWO COLOSSAL MOUNTAINS IN COLLISION, THE TWO ARMIES CHARGED TOWARDS EACH OTHER.

"JUST THEN ASHWATTHAMA INVOKED THE NARAYANASTRA.

"THOUSANDS OF ARROWS SPRANG FORTH FROM THE WEAPON AND CLOUDED THE SKY.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Stringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"EVEN AS THE ARROWS FELL ON THE PANDAVAS LIKE GLOWING SERPENTS, MANY A RADIANT DISC APPEARED IN THE SKY.

"STRANGE AND OMINOUS-LOOKING WEAPONS FOLLOWED. THE MORE THE PANDAVA FORCES OPPOSED IT, THE MORE POWERFUL THE ASTRA BECAME.

"SEEING HIS TROOPS BEING DECIMATED BY THE NARAYANASTRA, YUDHISHTHIRA SAID —

DHRISHTADYUMNA! TAKE THE PANCHALA ARMY AND FLEE! SATYAKI, YOU TOO GO HOME.

"ADDRESSING THE SOLDIERS, HE SAID —

DESIST FROM FIGHTING, I TOO WILL ENTER THE FIRE AND END MY LIFE.

"JUST THEN, KRISHNA SIGNALLED TO THE PANDAVA FORCES.

BRAVE WARRIORS, ALIGHT FROM YOUR VEHICLES AND THROW YOUR WEAPONS DOWN! THE ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE THE FURY OF THIS CELESTIAL WEAPON IS TO STAND UNARMED ON THE GROUND.

CC-O. Mumukshu Bhawan Varanasi Collection. Digitized by eGangotri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"AS THE WARRIORS DISMOUNTED, KRISHNA EXPLAINED—

THE MORE YOU OPPOSE IT, THE MORE POWERFUL THE ASTRA WILL BECOME. YOU MUST INSTEAD BOW BEFORE ITS MIGHT.

"THUS DIRECTED BY KRISHNA, THE PANDAVA WARRIORS GOT READY TO RENOUNCE THE WEAPONS AND EVEN THE VERY THOUGHT OF THEM.

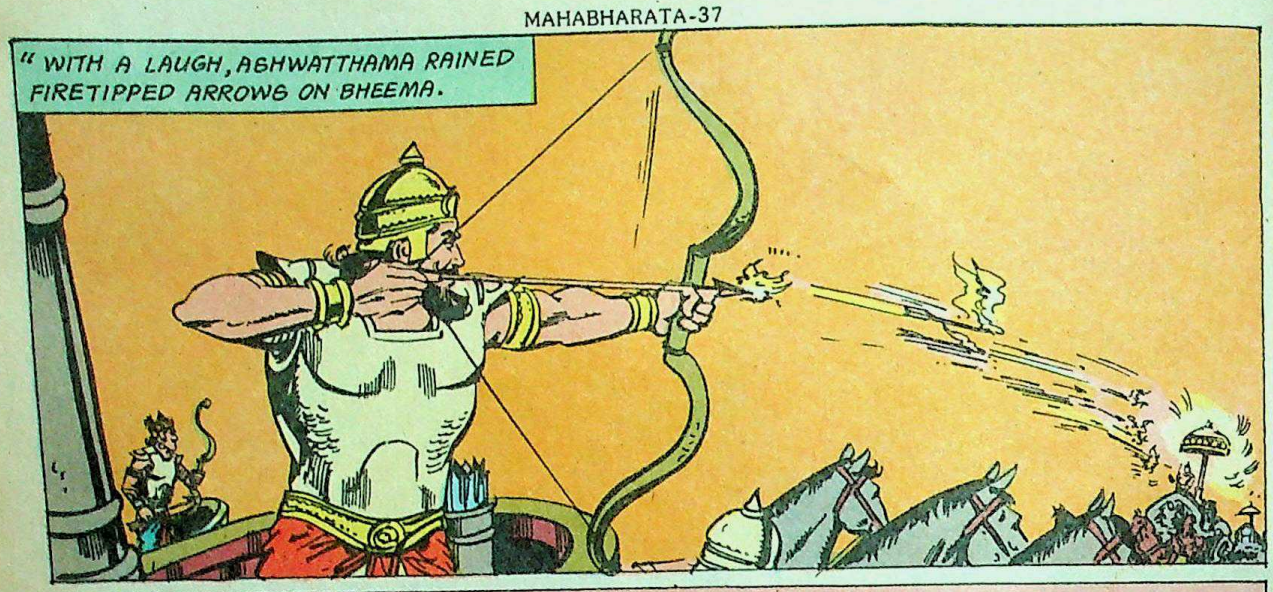
"BHEEMA ALONE WAS DEFIANT.

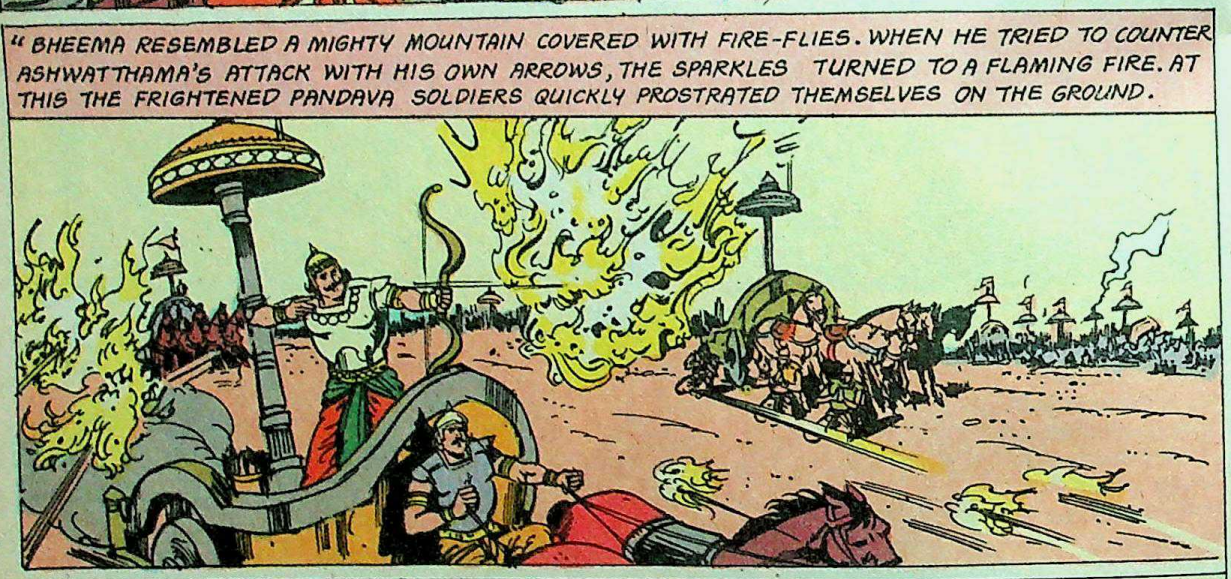
LIKE THE SUN, I STAND UNEQUALLED. I WILL OPPOSE THE NARAYANASTRA EVEN IF NO ONE HAS DONE SO BEFORE.

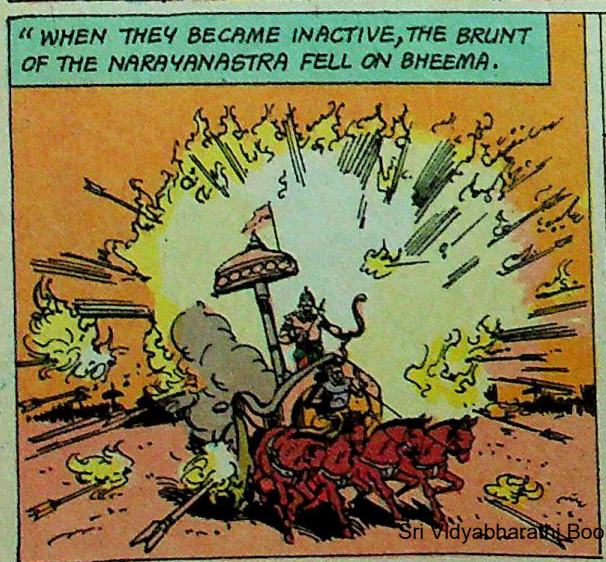
"AS HE SET FORTH ON HIS CHARIOT TOWARDS ASHWATTHAMA, THE KAURAVAS PELTED HIM WITH ARROWS.

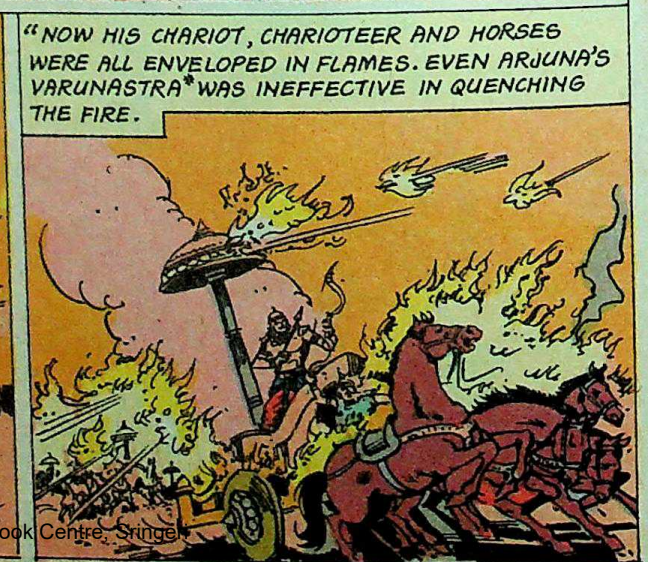
Sri Vidyabharati Book Centre, Shirgeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri









Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

* CELESTIAL WEAPON OF VARUNA, LORD OF THE SEA.

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"KRISHNA AND ARJUNA JUMPED DOWN FROM THEIR CHARIOT AND RUSHED TOWARDS BHEEMA LEAVING THEIR ARMS BEHIND.

"THEY WRENCHED OFF HIS WEAPONS AND PULLED HIM DOWN.

"BUT BHEEMA WAS STUBBORN. HE LET OUT A LION ROAR WHICH AGAIN AUGMENTED THE EFFECT OF THE ASTRA. KRISHNA REBUKED HIM.

WHY DO YOU NOT LISTEN, BHEEMA! STOP FIGHTING NOW.

"BOTH KRISHNA AND ARJUNA HELD BHEEMA DOWN TILL THE ASTRA PASSED OVER THEIR HEADS.

"THE AIR COOLED DOWN AND THE SOLDIERS AND ANIMALS REVIVED.

"AS THE PANDAVA FORCES PREPARED TO RESUME THE FIGHT, DURYODHANA TOLD ASHWATTHAMA —

COME ON! SEND THAT WEAPON AGAIN. HURRY!

Sri Vidyabharati Book Centre, Shringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

Sri Vidyabharathi [illegible] Mangeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"LAUGHING ASHWATTHAMA WARNED SATYAKI —

I KNOW YOU HAVE A SOFT CORNER FOR DHRISHTADYUMNA. BUT TODAY NEITHER OF YOU WILL ESCAPE ME.

"SEEING SATYAKI BEING THUS TORMENTED, FIVE MIGHTY PANDAVA WARRIORS CAME TO HIS AID.

"BHEEMA AND ASHWATTHAMA WERE SOON ENGAGED IN WELL-MATCHED BATTLE.

"ASHWATTHAMA INJURED BHEEMA'S CHARIOTEER. RELEASED FROM THE REINS, HIS HORSES TOOK BHEEMA AWAY.

"ARJUNA HAILED ASHWATTHAMA —

LET ME SEE YOUR VALOUR, YOUR STRENGTH, YOUR PROWESS. COME! DISPLAY YOUR LOVE OF THE KAURAVAS AND YOUR HATRED FOR US. TODAY, I WILL CRUSH YOUR PRIDE.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"DHRITARASHTRA WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THIS. HE INTERRUPTED SANJAYA'S NARRATION.

BUT ARJUNA AND ASHWATTHAMA HAD ALWAYS BEEN FRIENDS. WHY WAS ARJUNA SO RUDE TO HIM ?

HE WAS DEEPLY HURT BY THE CRITICISM HURLED AT HIM, THE DEFEAT OF BHEEMA, SATYAKI AND DHRISHTADYUMNA HAD ALSO MADE HIM UNHAPPY.

"ASHWATTHAMA TOOK UP ARJUNA'S CHALLENGE.

"IMPATIENT TO KILL ARJUNA, HE INVOKED THE AGNEYASTRA.*

"NO SOONER HAD THE CELESTIAL WEAPON BEEN RELEASED THAN THE SKY RAINED DOWN ARROWS AND METEORS AND FLAMES OF FIRE ONTO THE BATTLEFIELD WHICH WAS SUDDENLY PLUNGED IN DARKNESS.

"ARJUNA THEN USED THE BRAHMASTRA WHICH SUBDUES THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS.

* CELESTIAL WEAPON BELONGING TO AGNI, LORD OF FIRE.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"COUNTERED BY THE BRAHMASTRA, THE DARKNESS LIFTED AND THE AIR COOLED DOWN. THE DEVASTATING EFFECT OF THE AGNEYASTRA ON THE PANDAVA FORCES NOW BECAME VISIBLE.

"BUT ARJUNA AND KRISHNA ESCAPED UNSCATHED. THIS PLUNGED ASHWATTHAMA IN A GLOOM OF DESPAIR.

"THROWING AWAY HIS BOW HE JUMPED OFF HIS CHARIOT.

SHAME ON ME! ALL MY EFFORTS ARE FUTILE.

"AS HE WAS RUNNING OFF THE BATTLEFIELD FULL OF DESPAIR, HE CAME ACROSS SAGE VYASA.

OH, WISE ONE! WHERE DID I GO WRONG? WHY DID THE WEAPON FAIL ME?

"POURING OUT HIS WOE, HE CONTINUED—

HOW COULD SUCH A POWERFUL WEAPON BE QUELLED? HOW COME ARJUNA AND KRISHNA ALWAYS MANAGE TO ESCAPE?

BECAUSE MY SON, YOU USED THE WEAPON AGAINST KRISHNA WHO IS AN INCARNATION OF VISHNU.*

"ON HEARING THIS, ASHWATTHAMA BADE HIS ARMY TO GO BACK TO THE CAMP.

Sri Vijayasharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"DURYODHANA, ASHWATTHAMA, KARNA AND OTHERS SPENT THE NIGHT IN DISCUSSING THE STRATEGY TO BE ADOPTED THE NEXT DAY.

WHAT IN YOUR ESTEEMED OPINION SHOULD WE DO NOW?

"ASHWATTHAMA SAID —

THOUGH MANY OF OUR ABLE WARRIORS HAVE BEEN KILLED, WE SHOULD NOT LOSE HEART. WITH KARNA IN COMMAND WE CAN STILL VANQUISH THE ENEMY.

"HIS WORDS WERE ENCOURAGING TO DURYODHANA, ADDRESSING KARNA, HE SAID —

BHEESHMA AND DRONA, OUR TWO VENERABLE COMMANDERS, ARE NO MORE. THEY WERE BRAVE BUT THEY WERE INCLINED TO BE PARTIAL TO THE PANDAVAS.

YOU ARE SURELY THE BEST MAN TO LEAD OUR FORCES NOW. YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT OUR WELFARE. COME! TAKE CHARGE OF THE ARMY.

I WILL BE GLAD TO DO SO. CONSIDER THE PANDAVAS ALREADY DEFEATED.

"KARNA WAS FORMALLY INSTALLED AS THE THIRD COMMANDER OF THE KAURAVAS.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"ON THE MORNING OF THE SIXTEENTH DAY, THE KAURAVA CAMP RESOUNDED WITH THE VOICE OF KARNA. HE ARRANGED THE FORCES IN THE MAKARA VYUHA.*

COME ON, MY BRAVES! GET READY TO FIGHT.

"THE INSTRUCTIONS HE GAVE WERE VERY CLEAR.

I SHALL BE AT THE MOUTH OF THE VYUHA, SHAKUNI AND ULOOKA WILL BE THE EYES. ASHWATTHAMA, YOU BE AT THE HEAD. DURYODHANA SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE CENTRE SURROUNDED BY HIS ARMY.

"YUDHISHTHIRA REMARKED TO ARJUNA —

ARJUNA, BEHOLD THE KAURAVAS BEREFT OF THEIR MIGHTY WARRIORS. KARNA IS THE ONLY HERO LEFT.

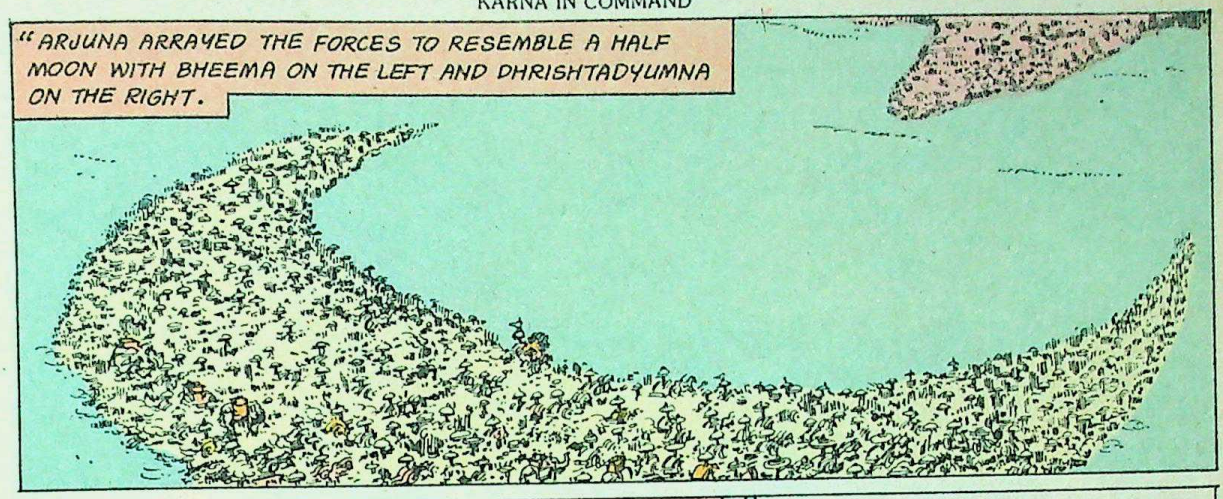
TODAY IT MUST BE YOUR AIM TO KILL HIM. ARRANGE OUR FORCES ACCORDINGLY.

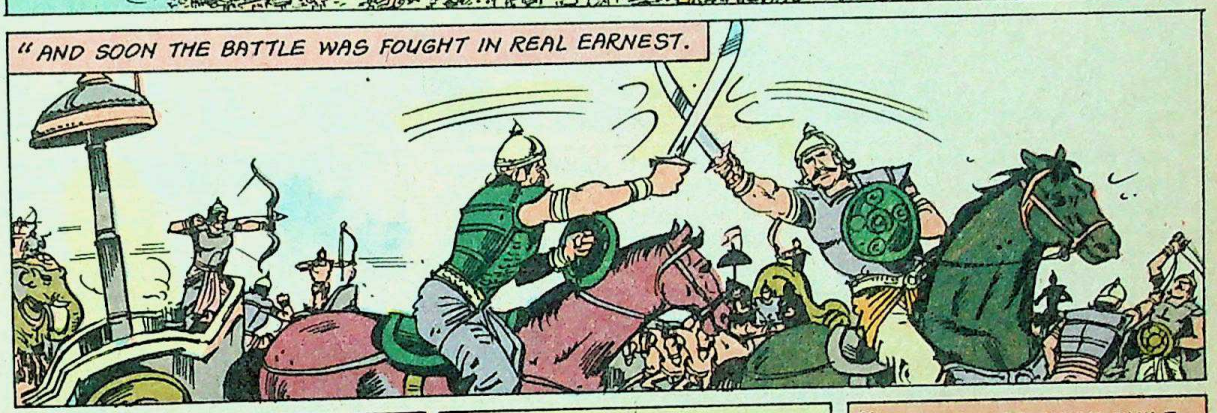
I WILL ARRANGE OUR MEN IN THE SHAPE OF A CRESCENT.

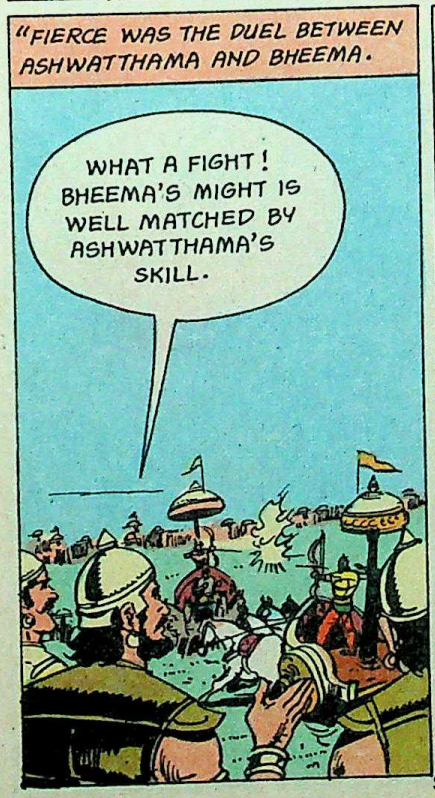
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

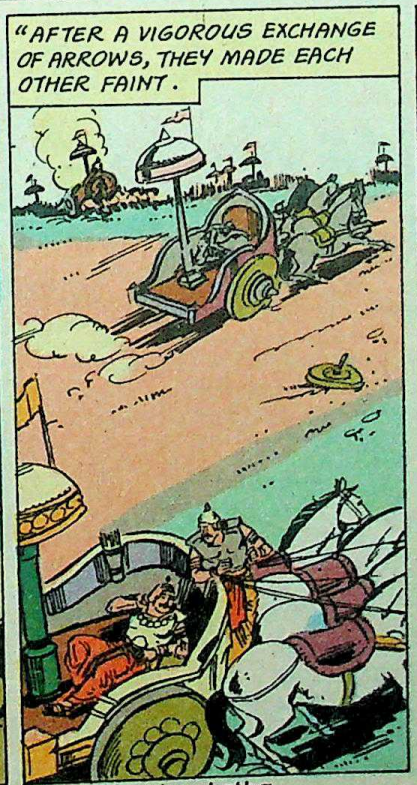
 * ARMY ARRAYED IN THE SHAPE OF CROCODILE.

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri









Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"EVEN AS HE KEPT REDUCING THEIR NUMBERS, ASHWATTHAMA CALLED OUT TO HIM FROM ANOTHER DIRECTION.

COME, ARJUNA. TREAT ME LIKE YOUR GUEST. ENTERTAIN ME WITH ALL YOUR WEAPONS.

"ARJUNA CONSULTED KRISHNA.

SHOULD I FIGHT THE SAMSHAPTAKAS OR ACCEPT ASHWATTHAMA'S CHALLENGE? TELL ME, O KRISHNA.

"IN RESPONSE, KRISHNA LED THE CHARIOT TOWARDS ASHWATTHAMA. A FURIOUS FIGHT ENSUED.

"SEEING ASHWATTHAMA GAINING AN EDGE OVER ARJUNA, KRISHNA SAID—

WHAT HAS COME OVER YOU? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR HOLD ON YOUR GANDEEVA?

SEE HOW THIS SON OF MY GURU IS TRYING TO KILL US. I WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM.

"THE FURY WITH WHICH ARJUNA THEN SHOT HIS ARROWS PIERCED NOT ONLY ASHWATTHAMA'S HORSES AND CHARIOT, BUT ALSO FELLED THE ELEPHANTS AND SOLDIERS WHO WERE FAR AWAY.

Sri Vyasabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"GRIEVOUSLY INJURED, ASHWATTHAMA'S HORSES FLED THE FIELD, CARRYING THE CHARIOT AWAY WITH THEM.

"AS HE WAS LED AWAY FROM THE FIELD, ASHWATTHAMA REFLECTED.

KRISHNA AND ARJUNA ARE BOUND TO BE VICTORIOUS. I WILL NOT CONFRONT ARJUNA AGAIN. LET ME INSTEAD JOIN KARNA'S FORCES.

"KARNA WAS BUSY CONFRONTING NAKULA'S ONSLAUGHT.

O KARNA! THE GODS ARE INDEED PLEASED WITH ME TODAY. HOW I LONG TO KILL YOU, THE ROOT CAUSE OF ALL THIS ANIMOSITY!

BRAVE MEN DO NOT TALK; THEY ACT. LET ME PUT YOUR PRIDE IN ITS PLACE.

"KARNA ACTED OUT HIS THREAT AND UNABLE TO CONTAIN HIS ATTACK, NAKULA TRIED TO ESCAPE. KARNA LAUGHED AND SAID:

DO YOU REALISE YOU WERE BOASTING IN VAIN? RUN AWAY NOW.

"BY NOON WHILE KARNA CIRCLED THE BATTLEFIELD CAUSING HAVOC AND DESTRUCTION, SEVERAL DUELS WERE BEING FOUGHT.

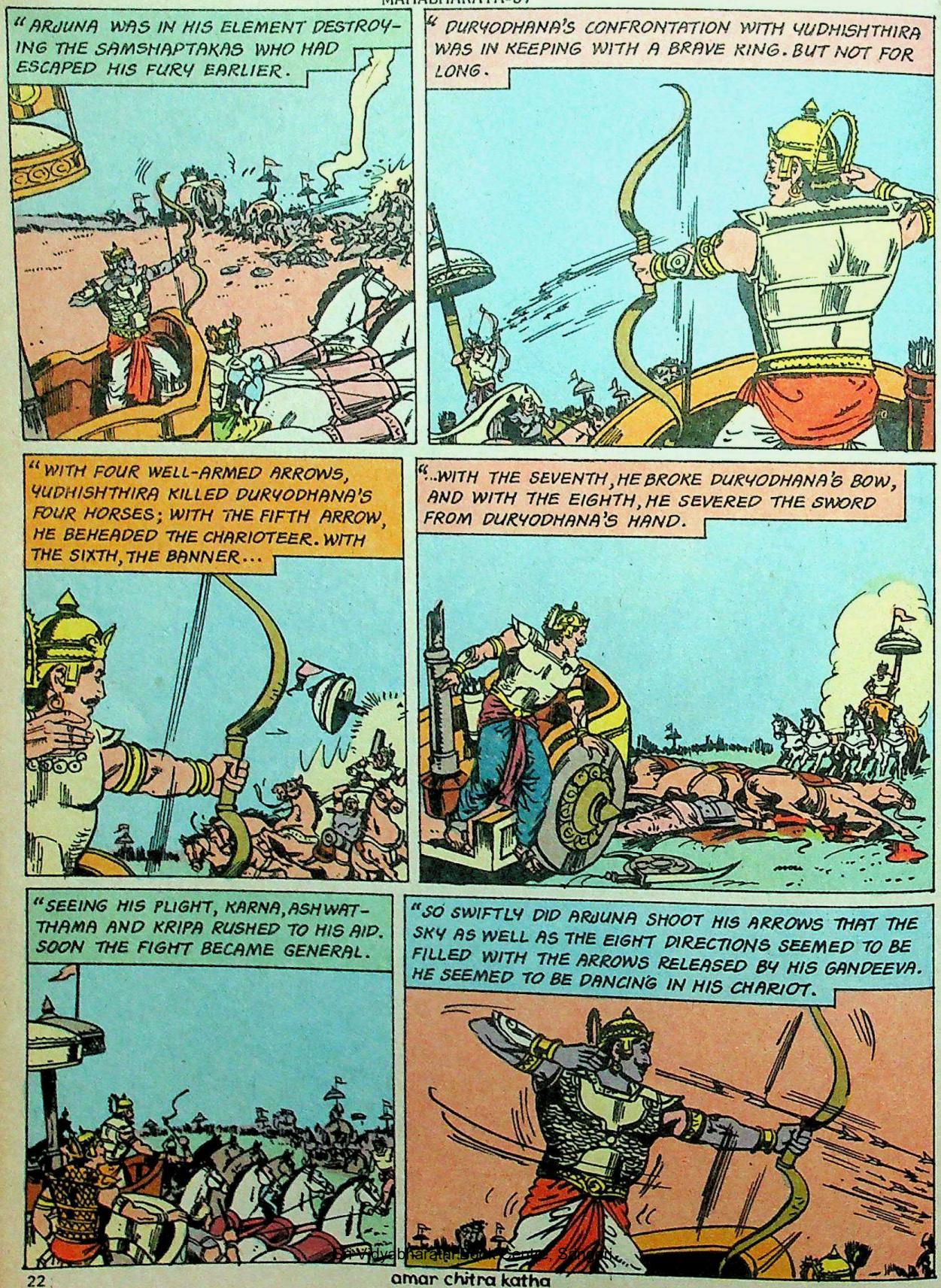
"YUYUTSU FOUGHT ULOOKA.

"KRIPA CONFRONTED DHRISHTADYUMNA TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF DRONA.

"KRITAVARMA'S ARROW PIERCED SHIKHANDI'S ARMOUR AND, AS HE FAINTED, HE HELD ON TO THE FLAGPOST.

Sri Vidyaranya Book Centre, Sringeri

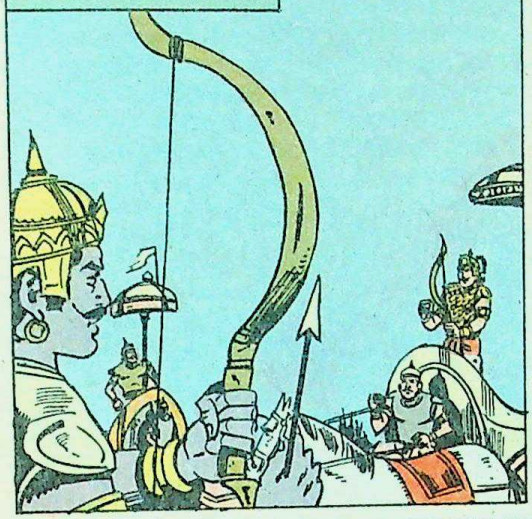
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri



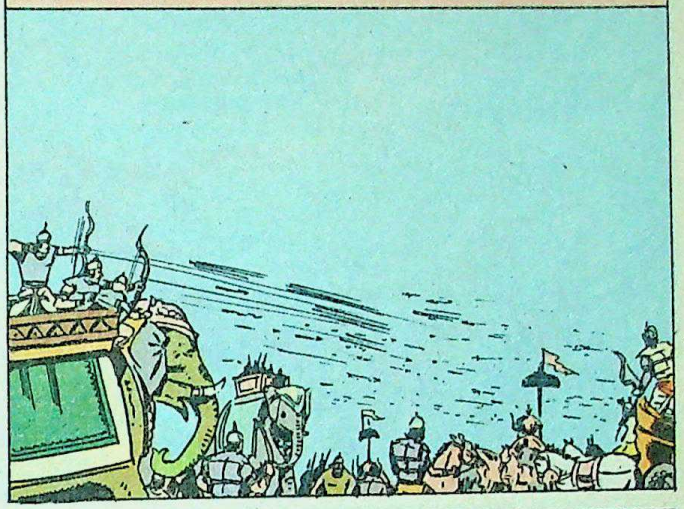
Sri Vidyabharati Book Centre, Srinagar

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

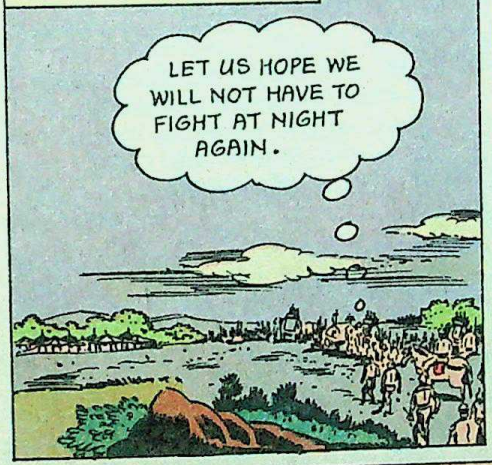
"AFTER INFLICTING DEFEAT ON DURYODHANA, ASHWATTHAMA AND KRITAVARMA, ARJUNA TURNED TO KARNA.



"WHEN KARNA'S SHARP ARROWS FOUND THEIR MARK AND WOUNDED BOTH ARJUNA AND KRISHNA, THE PANDAVA WARRIORS GATHERED TO ATTACK HIM.

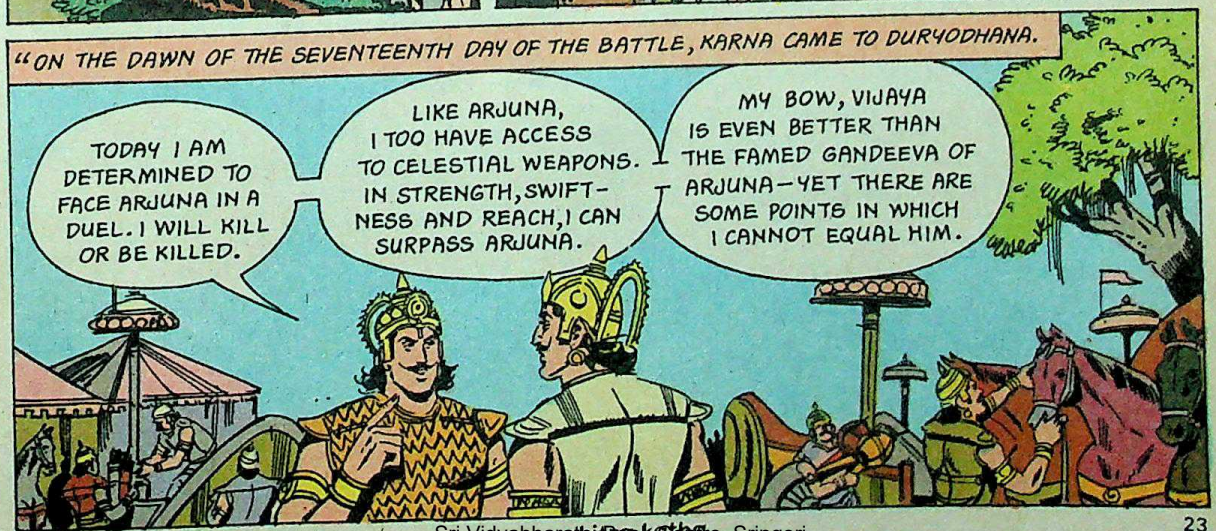


"AT SUNSET, THE SOLDIERS BEGAN TO RETURN TO THEIR CAMP.



"WHEN THE KAURAVA WARRIORS GATHERED TO DISCUSS THE STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT DAY, KARNA DECLARED—

"ON THE DAWN OF THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF THE BATTLE, KARNA CAME TO DURYODHANA.



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

HE HAS TWO INEXHAUSTIBLE CELESTIAL QUIVERS AND WHAT IS MORE, HE HAS KRISHNA AS HIS CHARIOTEER. IF ONLY SHALYA COULD DRIVE MY CHARIOT!

AS YOU WISH. I WILL ENSURE THAT YOU DO NOT RUN OUT OF WEAPONS OR CHARIOTS. I WILL TRY TO CONVINCE SHALYA ALSO.

"WHEN DURYODHANA REQUESTED SHALYA TO ACT AS KARNA'S CHARIOTEER, HE WAS LIVID WITH RAGE.

HOW CAN YOU INSULT A KSHATRIYA LIKE ME BY ASKING ME TO DO SUCH SERVILE WORK. I WILL GO BACK TO MY KINGDOM TODAY!

BUT, SHALYA, I DO NOT MEAN TO INSULT YOU AT ALL. I CONSIDER YOU TO BE SUPERIOR EVEN TO KRISHNA IN YOUR ABILITY TO HANDLE HORSES.

"SANJAYA NARRATED THE SCENE TO DHRITARASHTRA.

WHEN YOUR SON PUBLICLY PRAISED SHALYA AS BEING SUPERIOR TO KRISHNA, HE RELENTED AND AGREED TO BE CHARIOTEER TO KARNA ON CONDITION THAT THERE WOULD BE NO RESTRICTION ON WHAT HE COULD SAY.

"RESPLENDENT LIKE THE SUN AND FIRE ON A MIGHTY CLOUD, SAT KARNA AND SHALYA ON THE CHARIOT. ADDRESSING KARNA, DURYODHANA SAID—

O KARNA! THE TASK THAT THE GREAT BHEESHMA AND DRONA COULD NOT FULFIL IS YOURS TODAY. GO FORTH AND ANNIHILATE THE ENEMIES.

"KARNA SAID TO SHALYA—

LEAD ME TO THE PANDAVAS! I WILL KILL ALL FIVE OF THEM TODAY.

"SHALYA HAD CONSENTED TO THE TASK ON CONDITION THAT HE WOULD BE FREE TO SPEAK HIS MIND. SO HE SAID—

WAIT TILL YOU HEAR THE TWANG OF THE GANDEEVA, TILL YOU SEE BHEEMA OVERPOWERING ELEPHANT ARMIES, TILL YOU WITNESS THE SWIFT ARROWS OF YUDHISHTHIRA, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA.

OH! COME ON. LET US GO!

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"AS THEY PROCEEDED TOWARDS THE BATTLEFIELD, SHALYA CONTINUED TO EXTOL ARJUNA'S VIRTUES.

LIKE THE SUN AND THE MOON ARE KRISHNA AND ARJUNA. YOU ARE A MERE FIREFLY IN COMPARISON.

I PROMISED TO ALLOW YOU TO SPEAK FREELY, OTHERWISE...

"BUT WHEN THEY CONTINUED TO EXCHANGE INSULTS DURYODHANA INTERVENED—

KARNA, PLEASE STOP ARGUING. SHALYA, I REQUEST YOU TO PUT AN END TO THIS FUTILE TALK.

"SEEING THE COMPLEX FORMATION OF THE KAURAVAS, YUDHISHTHIRA ASKED ARJUNA TO ARRAY THEIR FORCES IN A SUITABLE FORMATION.

ARJUNA, YOU ATTACK KARNA. BHEEMA WILL CONFRONT DURYODHANA. NAKULA WILL FACE VRISHASENA*, SAHADEVA WILL MEET SHAKUNI AND DHRISHTADYUMNA WILL FIGHT ASHWATTHAMA. I WILL FIGHT KRIPACHARYA.

"WHEN THE SAMSHAPTAKAS CALLED OUT TO ARJUNA, HE ATTACKED THEM SINGLE-HANDED.

"AFTER THEIR NUMBERS BECAME DEPLETED, HE RAGED THROUGH THE KAURAVA FORCES LIKE FURY INCARNATE.

"KARNA TOO WAS IN HIS ELEMENT. HE RESEMBLED INDRA DEMOLISHING THE ASURAS.

* KARNA'S SON.

Sri Jayachamarajendra Bharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"YUDHISHTHIRA APPROACHED HIM.

LET ME SEE YOUR FAMED PROWESS. SHOW ME HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE.

I WILL BE TOO GLAD TO DO SO.

"ALTHOUGH SATYAKI AND OTHERS CAME TO HELP YUDHISHTHIRA, KARNA ROUTED THEM ALL. WHEN YUDHISHTHIRA'S ARMOUR WAS TORN ASUNDER, HE TURNED AWAY.

ARE YOU A TRUE KSHATRIYA? THEN HOW CAN YOU RUN AWAY? GO BACK TO ARJUNA OR KRISHNA. I WILL NOT KILL YOU IN THE BATTLEFIELD.

"BHEEMA WAS ENRAGED AT YUDHISHTHIRA'S INSULT. UNDER HIS ATTACK, KARNA FAINTED.

I WILL CUT OFF HIS TONGUE FOR INSULTING MY BROTHER AND KING.

RESTRAIN YOURSELF BHEEMA. REMEMBER, KILLING KARNA IS THE TASK OF ARJUNA.

"MEANWHILE ASHWATTHAMA CHALLENGED ARJUNA TO A DUEL AND COVERED HIM WITH ARROWS. KRISHNA EXCLAIMED—

WHAT HAS COME OVER YOU, ARJUNA? HAS YOUR GRIP LOOSENED? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR STRENGTH? THIS IS NO TIME TO BE CONSIDERATE TO A GURU OR HIS SON.

"KRISHNA'S TAUNTS HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT. WITH DIVINE WEAPONS, ARJUNA ATTACKED ASHWATTHAMA WITH SUCH FORCE THAT THE LATTER FAINTED AND HIS CHARIOT WAS DRIVEN AWAY FROM THE BATTLEFIELD.

"KRISHNA THEN DREW ARJUNA'S ATTENTION TO KARNA.

BEHOLD KARNA! HOW GRACEFULLY HE FIGHTS. THE FIELD IS STREWN WITH HIS VICTIMS. IT IS TIME YOU CONFRONTED HIM.

YES, I WILL. BUT WHERE IS YUDHISHTHIRA?

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Shringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"BHEEMA TOLD HIM.

YUDHISHTHIRA, WOUNDED BY KARNA, HAS RETURNED TO THE CAMP.

"A WORRIED ARJUNA TOLD KRISHNA.

I MUST SEE MY BROTHER AT ONCE. THEN I WILL RETURN AND KILL KARNA.

"WHEN YUDHISHTHIRA SAW KRISHNA AND ARJUNA COMING, HE PRESUMED KARNA HAD BEEN KILLED.

AT LAST HE HAS BEEN KILLED! TELL ME, ARJUNA, WHICH ASTRA DID YOU USE TO KILL KARNA!

NO, I HAVE NOT KILLED HIM AS YET. I CAME TO ENQUIRE ABOUT YOUR HEALTH.

"YUDHISHTHIRA WAS FILLED WITH DESPAIR.

YOU HAVE DISAPPOINTED ME, ARJUNA. I WAS DEPENDING ON YOU TO SAVE OUR HONOUR. NOW SHAME ON YOU, YOUR CHARIOT AND YOUR MUCH VAUNTED STRENGTH.

"BEFORE ARJUNA COULD REPLY, KRISHNA INTERVENED AND PACIFIED HIM. WITH YUDHISHTHIRA'S BLESSINGS THEY RETURNED TO THE SCENE OF BATTLE.

REMEMBER, ARJUNA, KARNA IS NOT AN EASY ADVERSARY. HE IS A MATCHLESS ARCHER. YOU ALONE CAN KILL HIM.

WITH YOU AS MY PROTECTOR AND LORD, MY VICTORY IS ENSURED, KRISHNA.

"SHALYA'S EARLIER TAUNTS WERE NOW REPLACED WITH ENCOURAGEMENT AND ADMIRATION FOR KARNA.

HERE COMES ARJUNA. NOW YOU ALONE CAN KILL HIM.

TAKE ME TO HIM.

Sri Vidyaranya Sanskrit Research Institute and Sri Vidyaranya Sanskrit Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

Sri Vidyabharati Book Centre, Bangalore

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"BHEEMA CUT OFF DUHSHASANA'S RIGHT HAND, RIPPED OPEN HIS CHEST AND TASTED HIS BLOOD.

"KARNA WAS GRIEF-STRICKEN. SHALYA COUNSELLED HIM.

DO NOT LOSE HEART, KARNA. YOU ARE DURYODHANA'S ONLY HOPE. COME LET US GO TO ARJUNA.

"KARNA'S SON VRISHASENA WAS TORMENTING NAKULA. BHEEMA CALLED TO ARJUNA FOR HELP.

I WILL KILL KARNA'S SON IN FRONT OF HIM.

"ARJUNA'S SHARP ARROWS FOUND THEIR MARK. KARNA SAW HIS SON BEING KILLED. ENRAGED HE SAID—

NOW I CANNOT WAIT TO KILL THIS ARJUNA. TAKE ME CLOSER, O SHALYA.

"AT LAST THE TWO HEROES WERE FACE TO FACE, WELL-MATCHED WITH THEIR SINEWY BODIES RUBBED WITH RED SANDALPASTE. BOTH WERE MOUNTED ON EXCELLENT CHARIOTS WITH WHITE UMBRELLAS AND WHITE HORSES.

Sri Vidyabharati Education Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"AS THEY WERE ENGAGED IN THE DUEL, THEIR MEN ENCOURAGED THEM WITH CHEERS AND THE BLOWING OF CONCH SHELLS.

"SOON, INSTEAD OF EARTHLY WEAPONS, THEY RESORTED TO CELESTIAL ONES. ARJUNA SENT OFF THE AGNEYASTRA AND KARNA COUNTERED IT WITH THE VARUNASTRA.

"IT WAS A TUSSLE BETWEEN EQUALS.

"KRISHNA SAID —

HOW COME KARNA IS ABLE TO DESTROY ALL YOUR WEAPONS TODAY? ROUSE YOURSELF!

I WILL USE THE BRAHMASTRA NOW.

"THE BRAHMASTRA COVERED THE FIELD WITH ARROWS AND DEAD BODIES BUT KARNA'S ARROWS WERE ALSO COMING IN A CONTINUOUS STREAM.

"THE AIR RESOUNDED WITH THE TERRIBLE TWANGS OF THE GANDEEVA OF ARJUNA AND THE VIJAYA OF KARNA. THEY TWANGED TO LET FORTH A BARRAGE OF ARROWS. ELEVEN TIMES KARNA CUT ARJUNA'S BOW STRINGS. QUICK AS A FLASH, ARJUNA REPLACED THEM EVERY TIME. KARNA THEN DISCHARGED FIVE SNAKE-LIKE ARROWS. ARJUNA CUT EVERY ONE OF THEM INTO PIECES.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"SO NUMEROUS WERE THE ARROWS SHOT BY ARJUNA THAT NOTHING — NEITHER KARNA'S CHARIOT NOR THE SUN IN THE SKY — WAS VISIBLE FOR SOME TIME.

"SOON THE WARRIORS BEHIND KARNA FLED IN TERROR OF ARJUNA. KARNA AIMED THE NAGASTRA AT ARJUNA'S NECK.

ARJUNA! BID FAREWELL TO THE WORLD. THIS IS YOUR LAST MOMENT.

"JUST IN TIME, KRISHNA PRESSED HARD SO THAT THE HORSES BENT DOWN AND THE CHARIOT SUNK BY FIVE INCHES IN THE GROUND. NOW THE WEAPON SCRAPED PAST ARJUNA'S HEAD AND KNOCKED OFF HIS CROWN.

"ARJUNA GATHERED HIS CURLY TRESSES IN A WHITE KERCHIEF AND RESUMED FIGHTING. BY NOW EVEN KRISHNA AND SHALYA WERE WOUNDED.

"MEANWHILE, KARNA'S CHARIOT WHEEL WAS SINKING INTO THE GROUND. WHEN HE NOTICED IT, HE RECALLED HOW A BRAHMANA HAD ONCE CURSED HIM.

WHEN YOU ARE CONFRONTING YOUR BIGGEST ENEMY, YOUR CHARIOT WHEELS WILL SINK INTO THE GROUND. AS YOU KILLED MY POOR COW, YOU TOO WILL BE KILLED.

"BY NOW THE LEFT WHEEL WAS TOTALLY SUNK IN THE SOFT EARTH. KARNA WAS FORCED TO DESCEND.

ARJUNA, PLEASE STOP FIGHTING WHILE I RAISE THIS WHEEL. IT IS NOT FAIR TO FIGHT ME NOW WHEN I AM ON THE GROUND.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"KRISHNA WAS FURIOUS.

SO YOU WANT US TO BE FAIR. DID YOU THINK OF BEING FAIR AT THE GAME OF DICE? WERE YOU RIGHTEOUS WHEN YOU SURROUNDED AND KILLED ABHIMANYU?

"KARNA CLIMBED ONTO HIS CHARIOT AGAIN AND FOUGHT ARJUNA. WHEN HE MANAGED TO INJURE HIM, HE GOT OFF THE CHARIOT AGAIN. KRISHNA SAID—

HURRY, ARJUNA! KILL HIM BEFORE HE GETS UP ON HIS CHARIOT.

"ARJUNA INVOKED A DIVINE ASTRA, ANJALIKA, AND AIMED IT AT KARNA WHO WAS STILL STRUGGLING TO LIFT THE WHEEL.

IF I HAVE LIVED A DUTIFUL AND RIGHTEOUS LIFE, MAY THIS WEAPON DESTROY MY ENEMY.

LIKE THE SUN DESCENDING ON EARTH, THE HEAD OF THE GREAT KARNA FELL ON THE GROUND.

"THUS ENDS THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VYASA'S IMMORTAL ITIHASA MAHABHARATA.

CC-O. Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Shimoga

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

Mahabharata-38
THE KURUS ROUTED

THUS ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF THE GREAT WAR, KARNA LAY DEAD ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THE SUN APPEARED TO MELLOW ITS RADIANCE FOR A WHILE AS IF MOURNING THE DEATH OF HIS BELOVED SON.

"A TEARFUL SHALYA DROVE THE CHARIOT BACK, DIVESTED OF BOTH ITS BANNER AND OWNER.'

"HIS EARS WERE FILLED WITH THE TRIUMPHANT CRIES OF REJOICING EMANATING FROM THE PANDAVA FORCES CELEBRATING THEIR VICTORY.

"DHRITARASHTRA ASKED SANJAYA—

WHAT WAS THE STATE OF OUR ARMY AFTER THE FEARSOME DUEL BETWEEN KARNA AND ARJUNA?

OUR SOLDIERS WERE LIKE A HERD OF BULLS SHORN OF THEIR HORNS OR LIKE SERPENTS DEPRIVED OF THEIR FANGS. THE ARMY WAS IN TOTAL DISARRAY.

"TO RALLY HIS FORCES AGAIN, DURYODHANA HAD TO TAKE THE LEAD.

TAKE MY CHARIOT AHEAD. I WILL KILL ARJUNA, KRISHNA AND THAT CONCEITED BHEEMA, AND AVENGE THE DEATH OF KARNA.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"BHEEMA JUMPED DOWN FROM HIS CHARIOT AND WITH HIS MACE MERCILESSLY KILLED THE SOLDIERS ON FOOT...

...WHILE ARJUNA ATTACKED THE WARRIORS ON CHARIOTS.

"TORMENTED BY THE ARROWS OF DHRISHTADYUMNA, SHIKHANDI, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA, THE KAURAVA SOLDIERS BEGAN TO FLEE THE BATTLEFIELD.

"DURYODHANA ADDRESSED THE FLEEING SOLDIERS.

WHERE WILL YOU RUN? THE COWARD AND THE BRAVE ALIKE HAVE TO FACE DEATH ULTIMATELY. COME, MY BRAVE WARRIORS, CHOOSE TO DIE LIKE TRUE KSHATRIYAS.

"BUT THE WOUNDED AND FRIGHTENED SOLDIERS WERE IN NO MOOD TO HEAR HIS DISCOURSE. THEY RAN AS FAST AS THEIR FEET COULD TAKE THEM. SHALYA SAID TO DURYODHANA —

BEHOLD, O KING! THE FIELD IS STREWN WITH FALLEN SOLDIERS. COME, LET US RETURN TO CAMP. ALLOW THE SOLDIERS TO GO BACK.

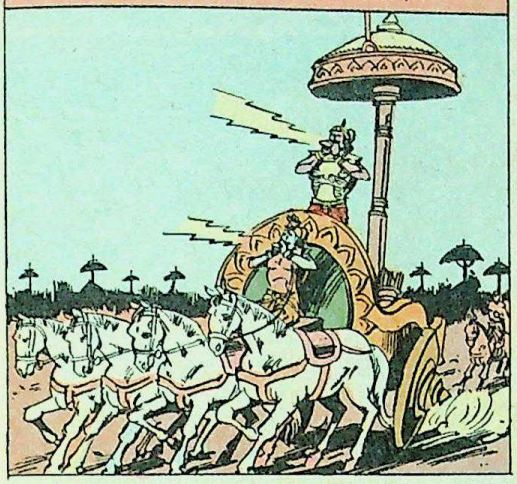
"DURYODHANA COULD NOT CONTROL HIS TEARS AS THEY MADE THEIR WAY BACK TO THEIR CAMP. HE COULD NOT GET OVER KARNA'S DEATH.

OH! KARNA! KARNA!

Sri Vidyaratheerthi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

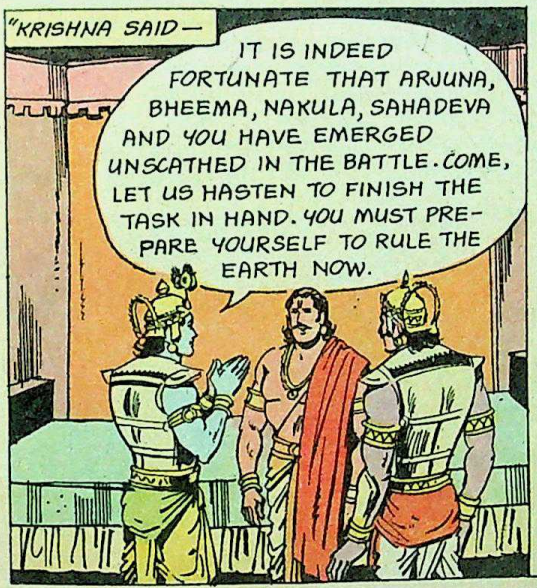
"IN A JUBILANT MOOD, KRISHNA AND ARJUNA RETURNED TO THE CAMP.



"THEY RUSHED TO YUDHISHTHIRA'S TENT TO CONVEY THE NEWS OF KARNA'S DEATH.

"KRISHNA SAID—

IT IS INDEED FORTUNATE THAT ARJUNA, BHEEMA, NAKULA, SAHADEVA AND YOU HAVE EMERGED UNSCATHED IN THE BATTLE. COME, LET US HASTEN TO FINISH THE TASK IN HAND. YOU MUST PREPARE YOURSELF TO RULE THE EARTH NOW.



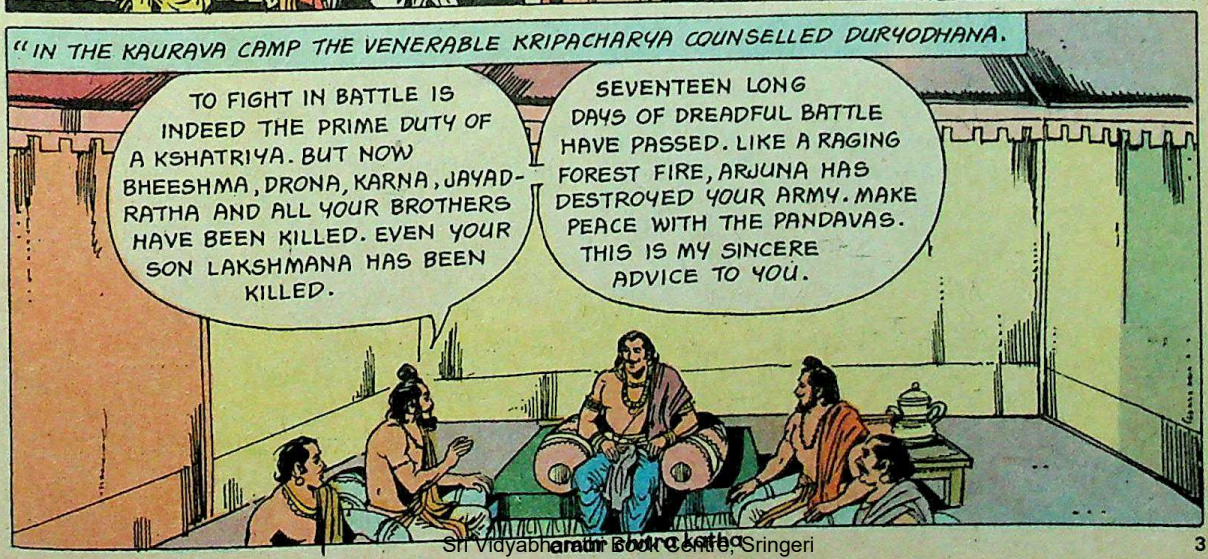
"YUDHISHTHIRA AFFECTIONATELY HELD KRISHNA'S HAND AND SAID —

WITH YOU ON OUR SIDE, OUR VICTORY WAS CERTAIN, O LORD! TONIGHT, AFTER THIRTEEN LONG YEARS, WE WILL SLEEP WITHOUT A WORRY.

"IN THE KAURAVA CAMP THE VENERABLE KRIPACHARYA COUNSELLED DURYODHANA.

TO FIGHT IN BATTLE IS INDEED THE PRIME DUTY OF A KSHATRIYA. BUT NOW BHEESHMA, DRONA, KARNA, JAYADRATHA AND ALL YOUR BROTHERS HAVE BEEN KILLED. EVEN YOUR SON LAKSHMANA HAS BEEN KILLED.

SEVENTEEN LONG DAYS OF DREADFUL BATTLE HAVE PASSED. LIKE A RAGING FOREST FIRE, ARJUNA HAS DESTROYED YOUR ARMY. MAKE PEACE WITH THE PANDAVAS. THIS IS MY SINCERE ADVICE TO YOU.



Sri Vidyabhaskar Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"FOR A WHILE, DURYODHANA SAT SILENT. THEN WITH A SIGH HE SAID —

I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL, BUT I CANNOT TAKE YOUR ADVICE. A MAN ON HIS DEATHBED DOES NOT RELISH MEDICINE.

HAVING RULED OVER THE ENTIRE EARTH, HOW CAN I BE A DEPENDANT OF THE PANDAVAS. TO DIE PEACEFULLY IN BED IS SHAMEFUL FOR A TRUE KSHATRIYA. SO FIGHT I MUST AND DIE A GLORIOUS DEATH.

"HIS SOLDIERS HAILED HIS DECISION AND RESOLVING TO FIGHT THE NEXT DAY THEY ALL RETIRED FOR THE NIGHT.

"NEXT MORNING, DURYODHANA CONSULTED ASHWATTHAMA.

I SEEK YOUR ADVICE AS THE SON OF OUR GURU. WHO DO YOU SUGGEST SHOULD LEAD OUR ARMY NOW?

BRAVE SHALYA SHOULD BE OUR COMMANDER!

"DURYODHANA REQUESTED SHALYA TO TAKE CHARGE.

THIS IS A TESTING TIME FOR US. PLEASE TAKE COMMAND AND LEAD US TO VICTORY.

I SHALL DO MY BEST FOR YOU. EITHER WIN THE WAR OR DIE IN THE BATTLEFIELD.

"THE KAURAVAS THEN PLANNED THEIR STRATEGY—

REFRAIN FROM SINGLE COMBATS. WE WILL FIGHT NO DUELS TODAY. OUR WARRIORS WILL FIGHT IN UNISON AND PROTECT ONE ANOTHER.

"WHEN THE KAURAVA SOLDIERS LEARNT THAT SHALYA WOULD BE THEIR COMMANDER, THEY CHEERED SO LOUDLY THAT YUDHISHTHIRA COULD HEAR THEM.

I THINK SHALYA, THE ACE ARCHER, HAS BEEN PUT IN COMMAND. O KRISHNA, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE SHOULD DO?

SHALYA IS INDEED SUPERIOR TO STALWARTS LIKE SHIKHANDI.

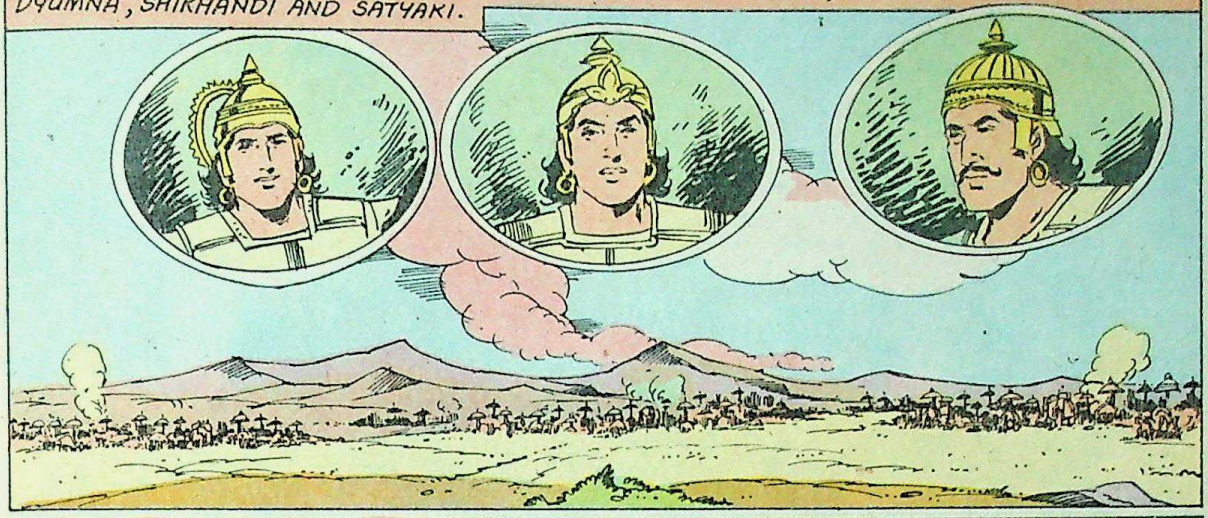
"KRISHNA CONTINUED —

YOU ALONE ARE CAPABLE OF KILLING SHALYA, O KING! FORGET THAT HE IS YOUR UNCLE AND FIGHT.

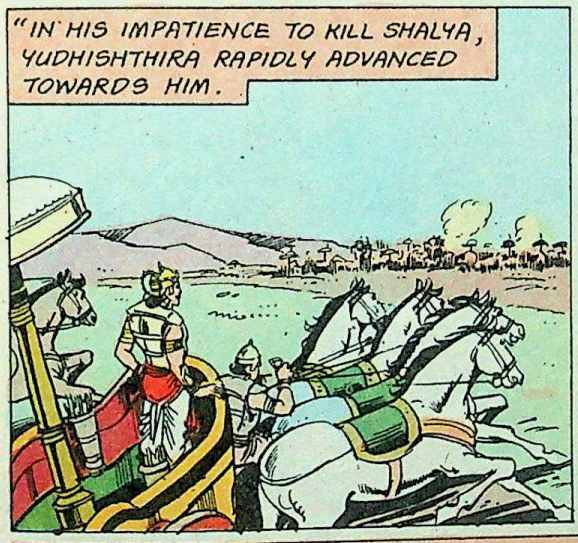
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

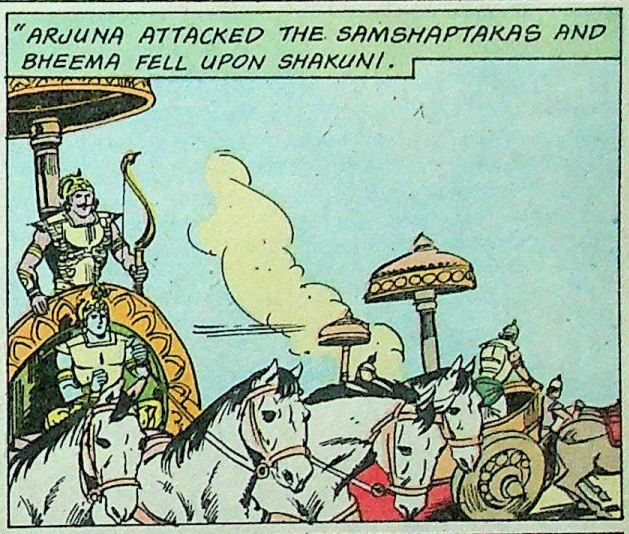
"THE PANDAVAS DIVIDED THEIR FORCES INTO THREE DIVISIONS, HEADED BY DHRISHTA-DYUMNA, SHIKHANDI AND SATYAKI.



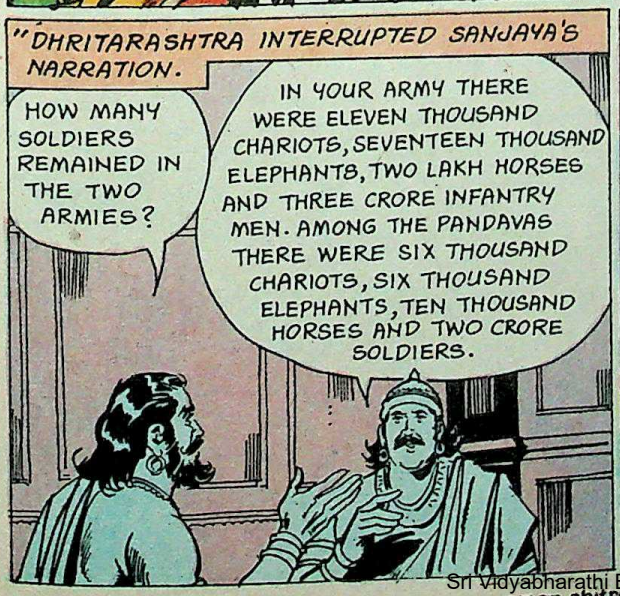
"IN HIS IMPATIENCE TO KILL SHALYA, YUDHISHTHIRA RAPIDLY ADVANCED TOWARDS HIM.



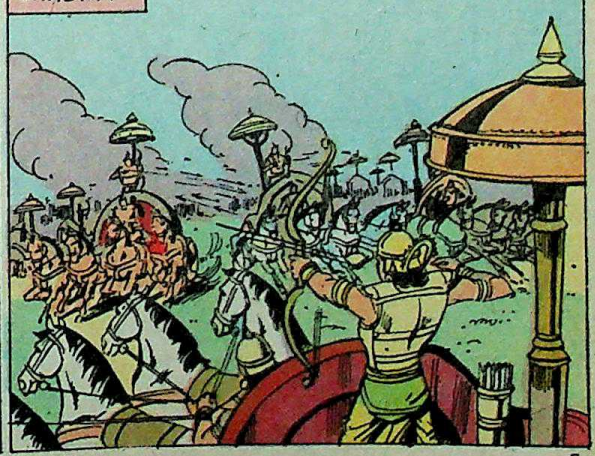
"ARJUNA ATTACKED THE SAMSHAPTAKAS AND BHEEMA FELL UPON SHAKUNI.



"DHRITARASHTRA INTERRUPTED SANJAYA'S NARRATION.



"WITH YUDHISHTHIRA LEADING THE WAY, DHRISHTADYUMNA AND SHIKHANDI, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA TOGETHER FELL UPON SHALYA.



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"THE KAURAVA SOLDIERS WERE FRIGHTENED OF THIS COMBINED ATTACK. BUT SHALYA WAS UNDAUNTED. HE TOLD HIS CHARIOTEER.

LEAD ME ON TO YUDHISHTHIRA AND WATCH ME IN ACTION TODAY.

"INDEED SHALYA ALONE WAS CAPABLE OF RESTRAINING THE SURGING PANDAVA FORCES.

"JUST THEN, NAKULA ATTACKED KARNA'S SON, CHITRASENA. BEING EQUALLY WELL-MATCHED IN PROWESS, THEIR DUEL WAS LONG DRAWN AND FURIOUS. NAKULA'S CHARIOT WAS DESTROYED. WITH HIS SWORD HELD ALOFT, HE ADVANCED TOWARDS CHITRASENA.

"SUDDENLY, HE LEAPED ONTO CHITRASENA'S CHARIOT, AND WITH A FATAL BLOW FROM HIS SWORD, BEHEADED HIM.

"CHITRASENA'S BROTHERS, SUSHENA AND SATYASENA ATTACKED NAKULA, BUT SOON MET WITH THE SAME FATE AS CHITRASENA.

"SEEING SHALYA BEING ATTACKED BY THE PANDAVAS, KRITAVARMA, KRIPA, SHAKUNI AND ASHWATTHAMA CAME TO HIS HELP.

Sri Vidyabharati Book Gandhe Singer

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"AN ENRAGED KRITAVARMA INFLICTED A WOUND ON BHEEMA.

"KRIPACHARYA WORRIED DHRISHTADYUMNA WITH A VOLLEY OF ARROWS...

"...AND ASHWATTHAMA ATTACKED NAKULA AND SAHADEVA.

"WHEN BHEEMA'S HORSES WERE KILLED BY KRITAVARMA, HE JUMPED DOWN FROM THE CHARIOT, BRANDISHING HIS MACE.

"AFTER CHASING AWAY KRITAVARMA, BHEEMA TURNED TO SHALYA AND KILLED HIS HORSES. SHALYA SKILFULLY THREW A SPEAR AT BHEEMA.

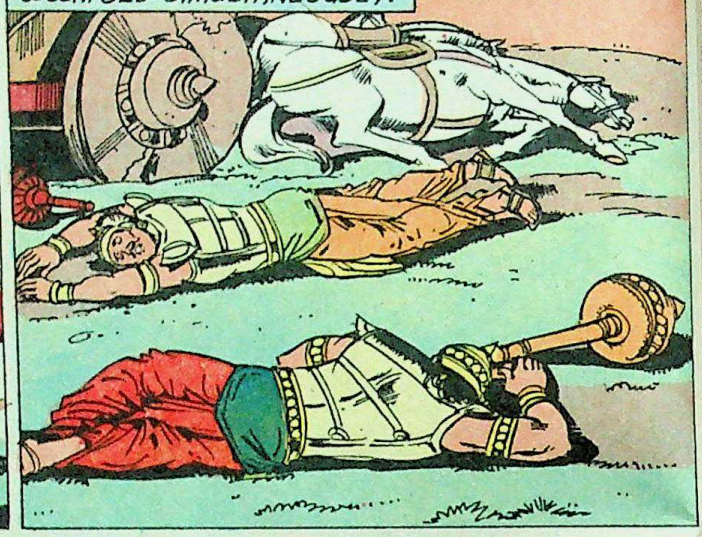
"UNRUFFLED, BHEEMA CAUGHT THE WEAPON IN HIS HAND AND THREW IT BACK AT SHALYA'S CHARIOTEER SO SWIFTLY THAT HE FELL OFF.

Amar Chitra Katha
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

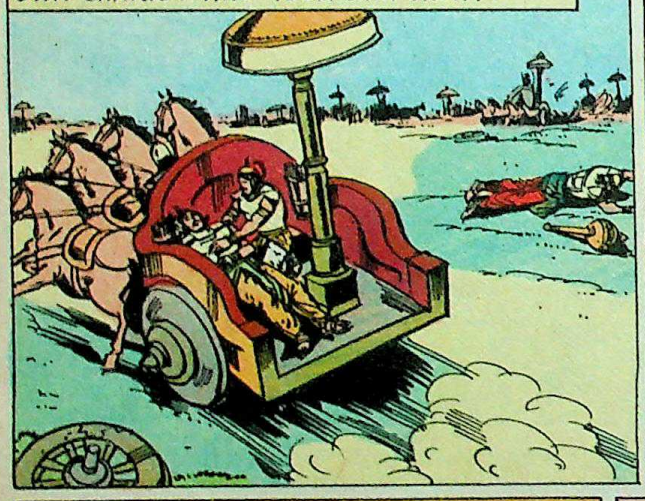
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"SHALYA THEN TOOK UP A MACE STANDING TALL LIKE A MOUNTAIN. THE TWO WARRIORS RESEMBLED TWO ENRAGED BULLS RARING FOR A FIGHT.

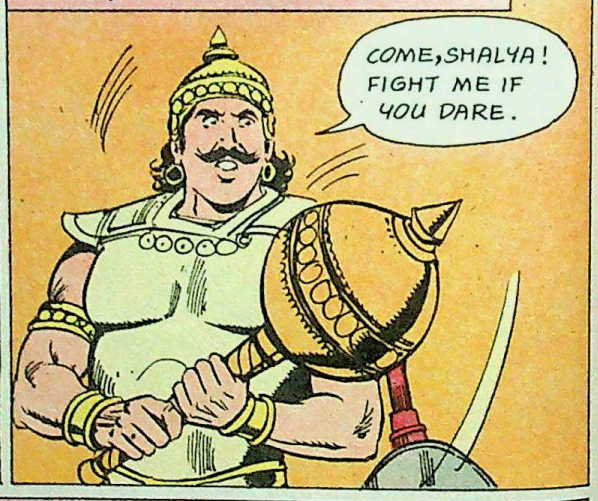
"SPARKS FLEW EACH TIME THEIR MACES CLASHED. WOUNDED AND BLEEDING PROFUSELY, THEY CIRCLED, REARED AND ATTACKED TILL BOTH OF THEM COLLAPSED SIMULTANEOUSLY.



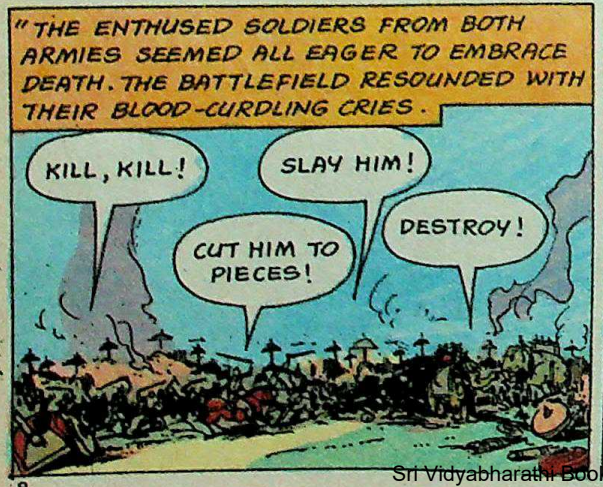
"KRIPACHARYA QUICKLY PUT SHALYA ON HIS OWN CHARIOT AND TOOK HIM AWAY.



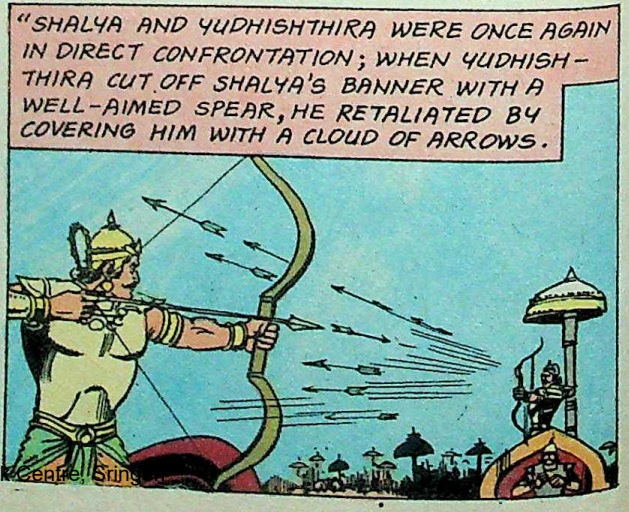
"ON RECOVERING, BHEEMA SPRANG UP WITH A ROAR, READY FOR THE FRAY AGAIN.



"THE ENTHUSED SOLDIERS FROM BOTH ARMIES SEEMED ALL EAGER TO EMBRACE DEATH. THE BATTLEFIELD RESOUNDED WITH THEIR BLOOD-CURDLING CRIES.



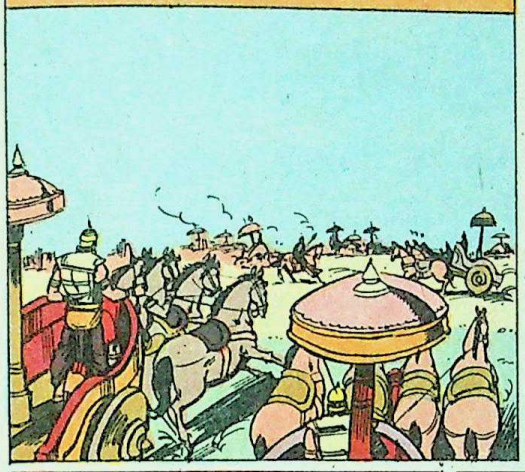
"SHALYA AND YUDHISHTHIRA WERE ONCE AGAIN IN DIRECT CONFRONTATION; WHEN YUDHISHTHIRA CUT OFF SHALYA'S BANNER WITH A WELL-AIMED SPEAR, HE RETALIATED BY COVERING HIM WITH A CLOUD OF ARROWS.



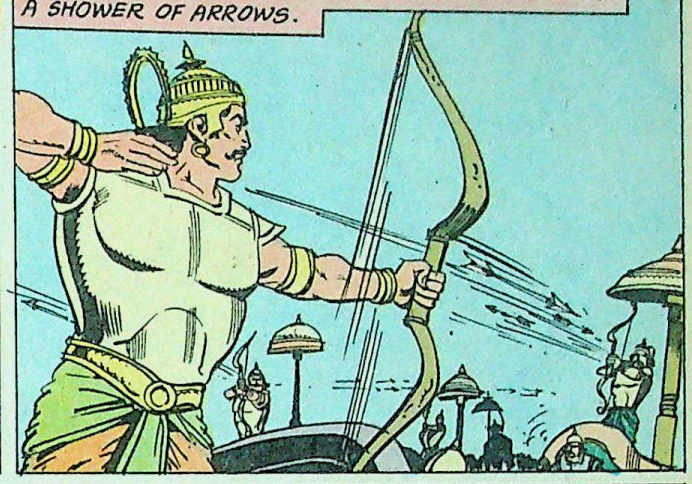
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

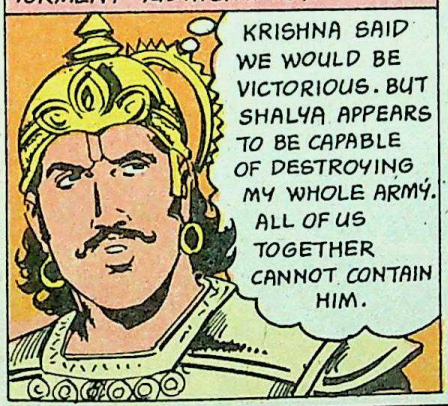
"SATYAKI, BHEEMA, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA RUSHED TO YUDHISHTHIRA'S SIDE AND HARASSED SHALYA.



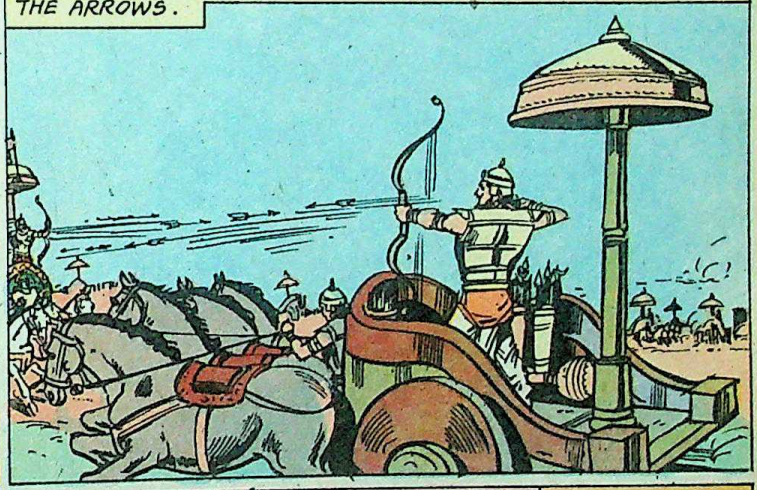
"BUT SHALYA TOOK GOOD CARE OF HIMSELF, ATTACKING SATYAKI, BHEEMA AND NAKULA WITH A SHOWER OF ARROWS.



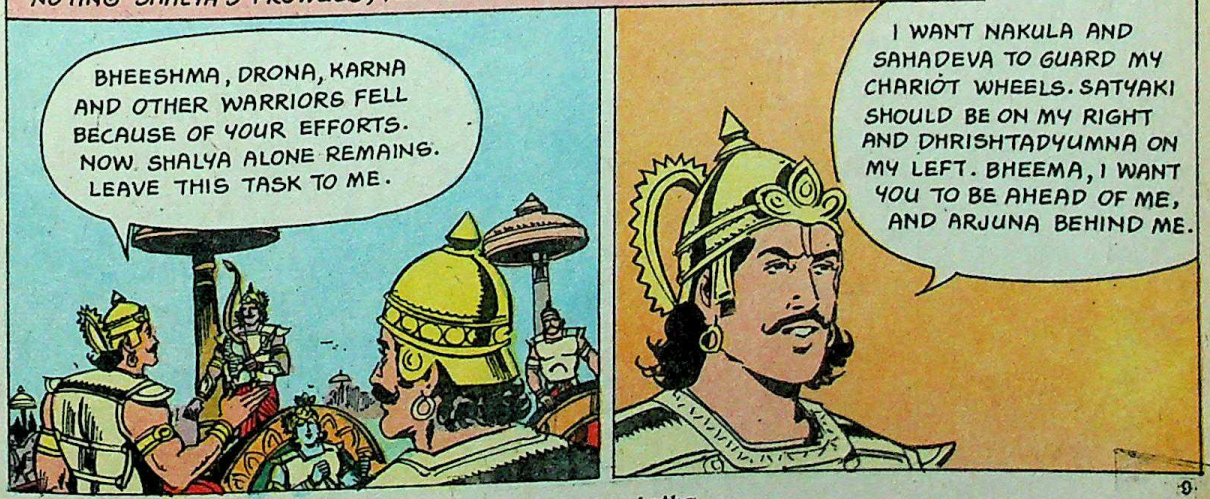
"THE PANDAVAS TRIED VARIOUS WEAPONS ON SHALYA, BUT HE LIVED UP TO HIS REPUTATION OF A GREAT WARRIOR. HE QUELLED THEM ALL. A NIGGLING DOUBT BEGAN TO TORMENT YUDHISHTHIRA.



"MEANWHILE, ARJUNA AND ASHWATTHAMA WERE LOCKED IN COMBAT. ARJUNA'S CHARIOT WAS BARELY VISIBLE UNDER THE ARROWS.



"NOTING SHALYA'S PROWESS, YUDHISHTHIRA CALLED HIS BROTHERS TOGETHER.



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"READILY, THE BROTHERS AGREED. LIKE TWO HUNGRY LIONS POUNCING ON A PREY, YUDHISHTHIRA AND SHALYA LUNGED AT EACH OTHER.

"THE MILD AND CALM YUDHISHTHIRA APPEARED TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A DETERMINED AND FORMIDABLE FOE.

"LIKE A STRONG GUST OF WIND DISPELLING CLOUDS, YUDHISHTHIRA PLAYED HAVOC WITH THE KAURAVA ARMY.

STAND STILL, SHALYA! HERE I COME!

"SO GALLANTLY DID YUDHISHTHIRA AND SHALYA FIGHT THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHO WOULD WIN IN THE DUEL.

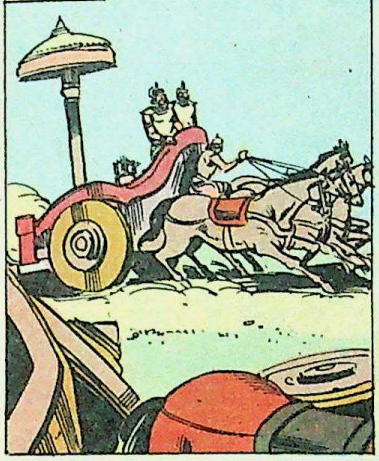
TODAY, SURELY YUDHISHTHIRA WILL WIN THE WAR OR LOSE IT WITH HIS LIFE.

"SHALYA FIRED A HUNDRED ARROWS ON YUDHISHTHIRA WHO RETALIATED WITH THREE HUNDRED. SOON SHALYA'S REAR GUARDS WERE KILLED, HIS HORSES SLAIN AND BANNER FELLED.

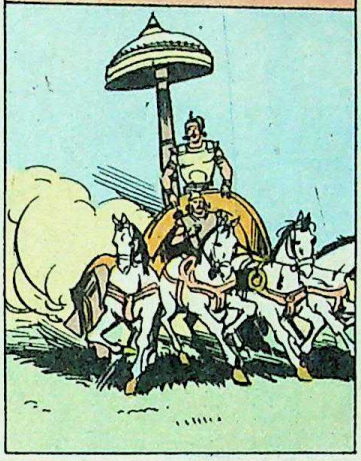
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"NOTING SHALYA'S PLIGHT, ASHWATTHAMA QUICKLY PUT HIM ON HIS OWN CHARIOT AND CARRIED HIM AWAY.



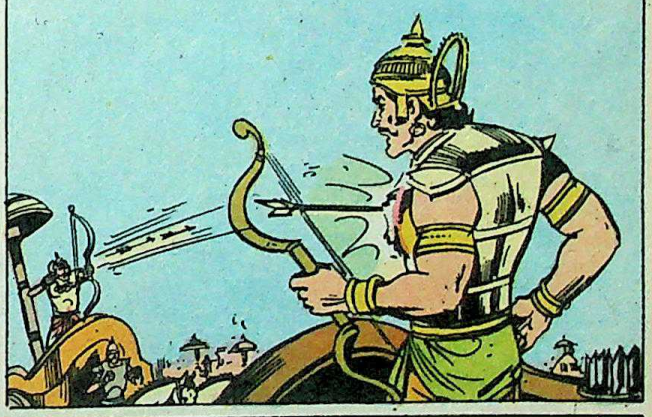
"YUDHISHTHIRA ROARED LIKE A LION AS HE SAW HIS ADVERSARY GETTING AWAY. BUT SOON SHALYA WAS BACK ON ANOTHER CHARIOT.



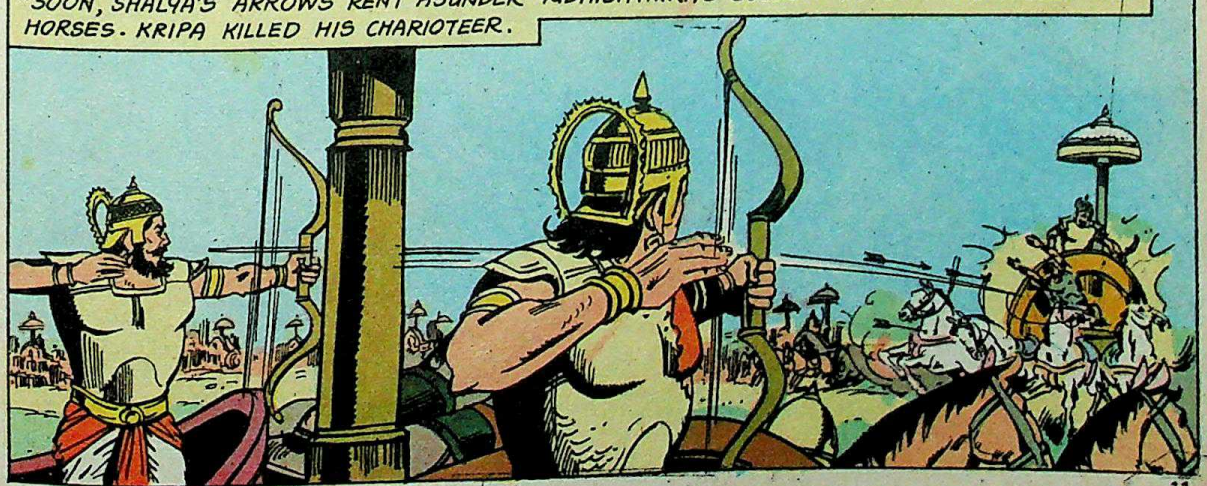
"BHEEMA, SATYAKI, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA FORMED A PROTECTIVE RING ROUND YUDHISHTHIRA AND CHALLENGED SHALYA TO FIGHT.

"UNDER YUDHISHTHIRA'S ATTACK SHALYA BECAME UNCONSCIOUS. HOWEVER, HE QUICKLY RECOVERED AND DISCHARGED A HUNDRED ARROWS AT YUDHISHTHIRA.

"WITH NINE WELL-AIMED ARROWS, YUDHISHTHIRA TORE OFF SHALYA'S ARMOUR. IN RETALIATION, SHALYA BROKE YUDHISHTHIRA'S BOW.



"SOON, SHALYA'S ARROWS RENT ASUNDER YUDHISHTHIRA'S GOLDEN ARMOUR AND KILLED HIS HORSES. KRIPA KILLED HIS CHARIOTEER.



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

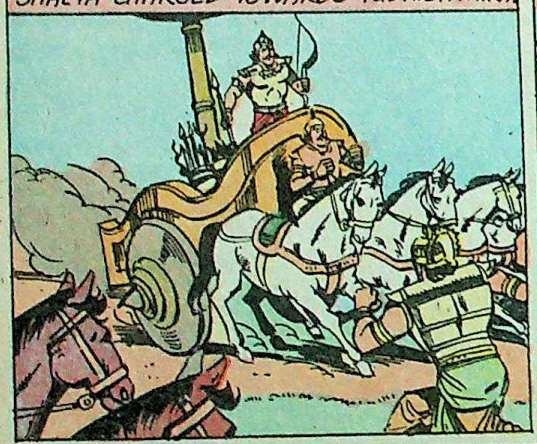
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"BHEEMA BEGAN TO HARASS SHALYA. WITH A SINGLE SWIFT ARROW, HE BROKE SHALYA'S BOW AND WITH ANOTHER KILLED THE CHARIOTEER. SOON THE FOUR HORSES TOO FELL.

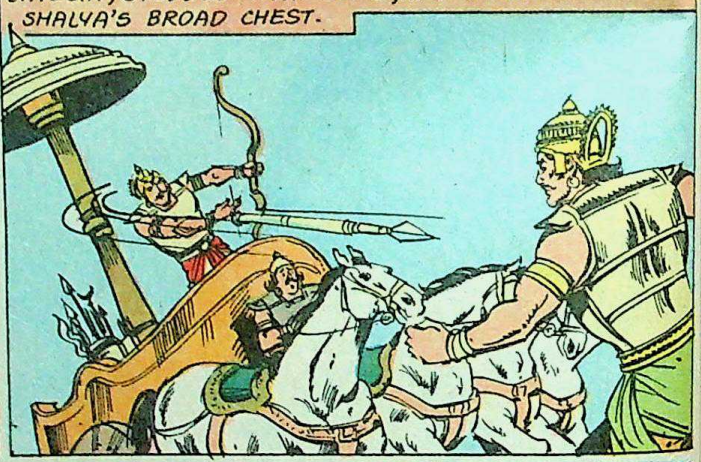
"SHALYA NOW JUMPED DOWN, SWORD IN ONE HAND AND SHIELD IN THE OTHER.

"DHRISHTADYUMNA, SHIKHANDI AND SATYAKI SURROUNDED SHALYA WHILE BHEEMA BROKE HIS SHIELD TO PIECES AND KNOCKED HIS SWORD OFF.

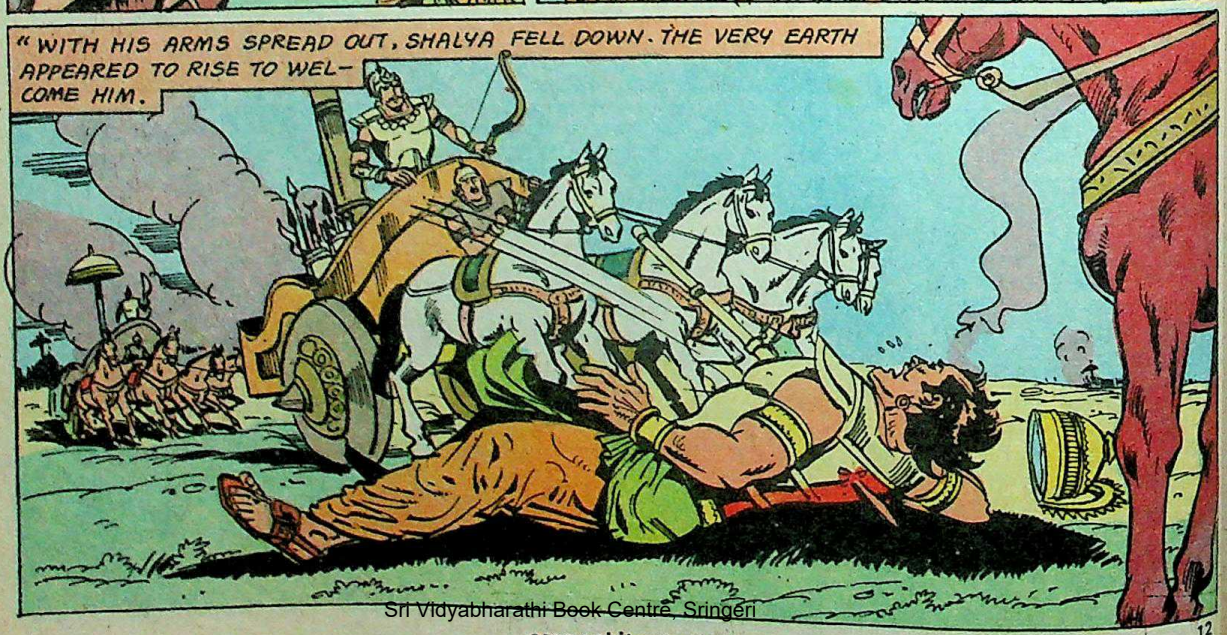
"THE FRIGHTENED KAURAVA SOLDIERS RAN PELL-MELL IN ALL DIRECTIONS. SHALYA CHARGED TOWARDS YUDHISHTHIRA.



"YUDHISHTHIRA PICKED UP A FIERCE LOOKING GOLDEN JAVELIN, STUDDED WITH GEMS, AND THREW IT AT SHALYA'S BROAD CHEST.



"WITH HIS ARMS SPREAD OUT, SHALYA FELL DOWN. THE VERY EARTH APPEARED TO RISE TO WELCOME HIM.



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"IN HIS WARLIKE FERVOUR YUDHISHTHIRA CONTINUED TO ATTACK THE KAURAVA ARMY.

"SHALYA'S ARMY RALLIED TOGETHER TO ATTACK THE PANDAVAS.

"SHAKUNI ASKED DURYODHANA —

WHY DID YOU ALLOW SHALYA'S ARMY TO ATTACK THE PANDAVAS? HAD WE NOT ALL DECIDED TO FIGHT IN UNISON?

I DID TRY, BUT THEY DID NOT HEED ME. LOOK NOW, THEY HAVE ALL FALLEN AND LIE DEAD.

"SEEING HIS ARMY DEMORALISED BY THE FALL OF THEIR COMMANDER, DURYODHANA SAID TO HIS CHARIOTEER —

PLACE MY CHARIOT BEHIND OUR ARMY. I MUST PERSUADE THEM NOT TO FLEE.

"SEEING DURYODHANA TAKING CHARGE, TWENTY ONE THOUSAND KAURAVA SOLDIERS WERE INFUSED WITH CONFIDENCE AGAIN TO FACE THE ENEMY.

HERE COMES THE MIGHTY DURYODHANA TO LEAD US. LET US ATTACK THE PANDAVAS!

"BHEEMA SAW THE ROARING MASS APPROACHING, AND QUICKLY DESCENDED FROM HIS CHARIOT. WITH HIS MACE, HE SOON MANAGED TO KILL MOST OF THEM.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"THE KAURAVA KINGS TOO BEGAN TO FLEE. DURYODHANA CALLED OUT—

DO NOT RUN AWAY! YOU WILL SURELY BE KILLED IF ISOLATED. COME LET US FIGHT TOGETHER.

"PERSUADED BY DURYODHANA, THE KAURAVA KINGS PREPARED TO FACE THE ENEMY.

"ADDRESSING KRISHNA, ARJUNA SAID—

FOR EIGHTEEN DAYS, THIS BATTLE HAS BEEN GOING ON. TODAY I MUST DESTROY THE WHOLE KAURAVA ARMY AND PUT AN END TO IT.

"SOON, THE ARROWS, EMERGING IN A RAPID VOLLEY FROM THE GANDEEVA, COVERED THE ENTIRE BATTLEFIELD.

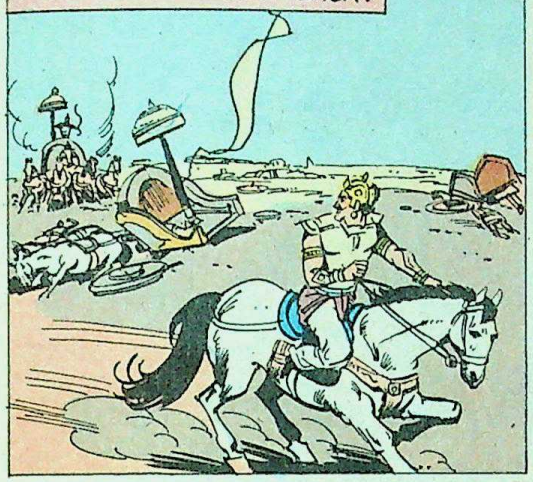
"TORTURED BY ARJUNA'S ARROWS, THE KAURAVA SOLDIERS WERE AGAIN READY TO FLEE.

"DURYODHANA TRIED TO REPEL DHRISHTADYUMNA WHO WAS ATTACKING THE ARMY.

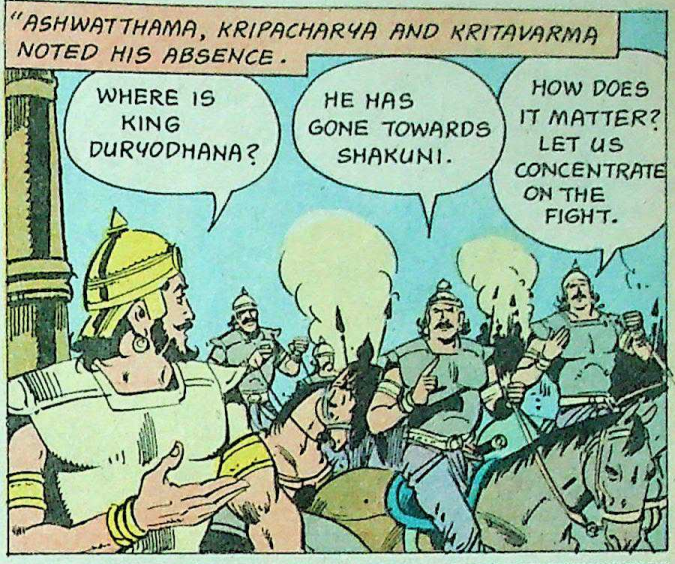
Sri Vijayabharathi Cultural Trust, Bangalore

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

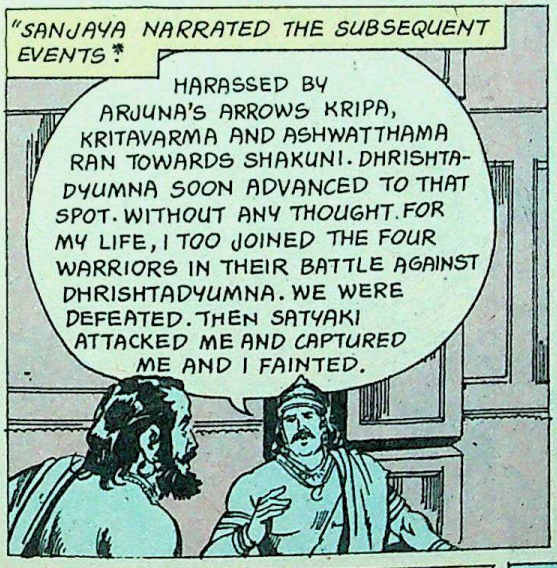
"WHEN DHRISHTADYUMNA KILLED HIS HORSES AND CHARIOTEER, DURYODHANA RODE AWAY ON HORSEBACK.



"ASHWATTHAMA, KRIPACHARYA AND KRITAVARMA NOTED HIS ABSENCE.



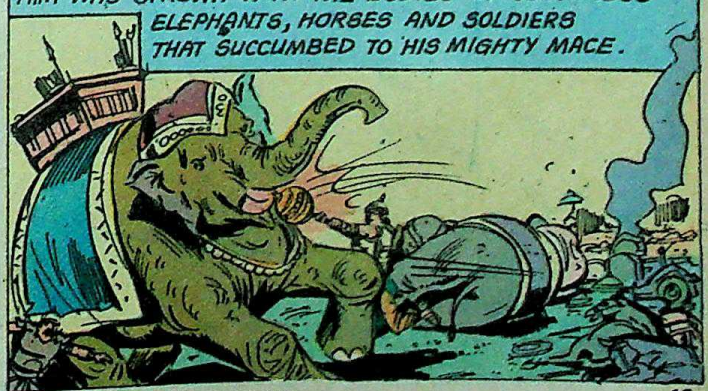
"SANJAYA NARRATED THE SUBSEQUENT EVENTS*



"AFTER DESTROYING OUR ENTIRE ARMY OF ELEPHANTS, BHEEMA ATTACKED DURYODHANA'S BROTHERS.

"UNITED THEY TRIED TO REPEL HIS ATTACK, BUT SOON THEY WERE STRUCK DOWN BY HIS ARROWS AND FELL LIKE TREES UPROOTED ON A MOUNTAINSIDE IN A STRONG GALE.

"ON THIS EIGHTEENTH DAY OF THE TERRIBLE WAR, BHEEMA WAS IN HIS ELEMENT. AFTER PUTTING TO DEATH ALMOST ALL OF THE KAURAVA BROTHERS, HE TURNED TO THE REST OF THE ENEMY ARMY. SOON THE BATTLEFIELD AROUND HIM WAS STREWN WITH THE BODIES OF COUNTLESS ELEPHANTS, HORSES AND SOLDIERS THAT SUCCUMBED TO HIS MIGHTY MACE.



* SANJAY MIGHT HAVE NARRATED THIS AFTER THE DAY'S BATTLE.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Trust, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"KRISHNA SAID TO ARJUNA —

BEHOLD DURYODHANA AND SUDARSHANA AMIDST THE HORSEMEN. KILL THEM!

O, KRISHNA, ONLY THESE TWO REMAIN OF ALL DHRITARASHTRA'S SONS. THEY TOO WILL DIE TODAY; REST ASSURED.

"ARJUNA THEN ATTACKED THE TRIGARTA ARMY, WHICH HAD BEEN HARASSING HIM ALL THESE DAYS.

"AT LAST HE KILLED SUSHARMA, THUS ENDING THE TRIGARTA SAGA.

"BHEEMA KILLED SUDARSHANA WITH SHARP ARROWS. DURYODHANA ALONE REMAINED AMONG THE KAURAVA BROTHERS.

"SHAKUNI AND HIS SON ULOOKA ATTACKED BHEEMA AND SAHADEVA.

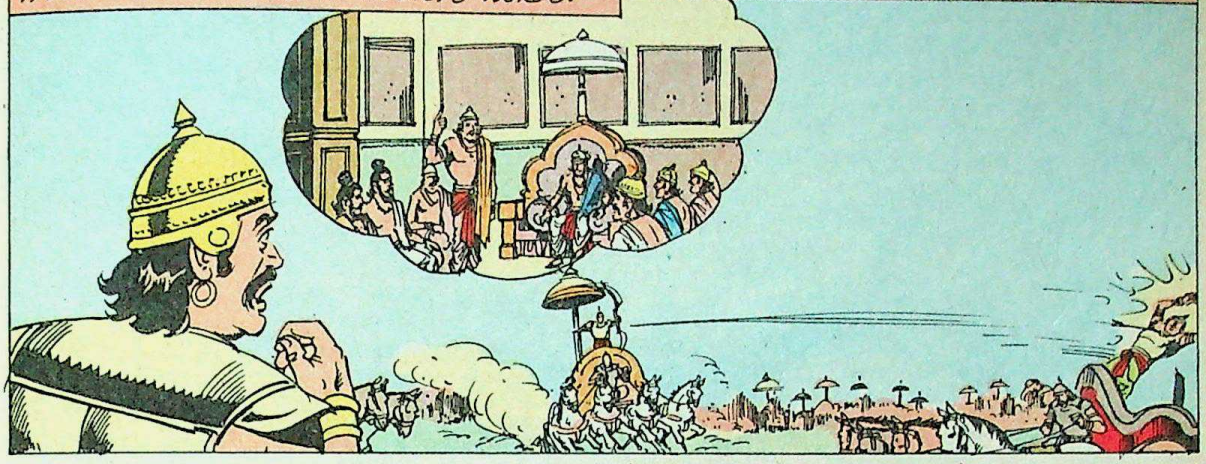
"SO NUMEROUS WERE THE ARROWS SENT BY SAHADEVA IN RESPONSE THAT THEY COVERED THE SKY LIKE A SWARM OF LOCUSTS.

"ULOOKA SHOT SEVEN ARROWS AT BHEEMA AND SEVENTY AT SAHADEVA. SAHADEVA RETALIATED SUITABLY.

Sri Vijayakumaran Book Centre, Singer

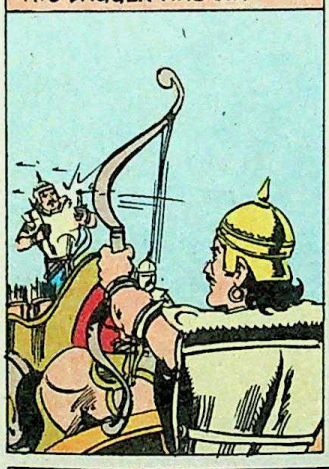
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"HE BEHEADED ULOOKA WITH HIS SPEAR. SHAKUNI'S EYES BRIMMED OVER WITH TEARS. WITH A DEEP SIGH HE RECALLED VIDURA'S WORDS.



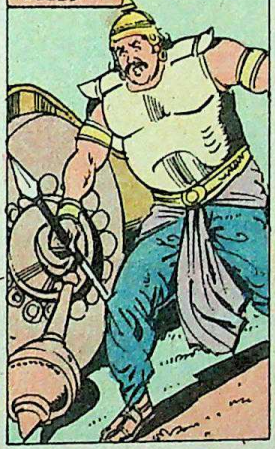
"AN ENRAGED SHAKUNI ATTACKED SAHADEVA WITH VARIOUS WEAPONS, BUT HIS ATTEMPTS WERE OF NO AVAIL.

"HIS DAGGER WAS CUT—

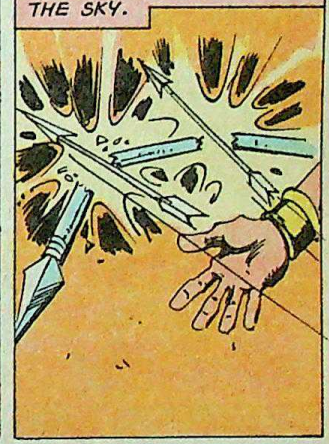


"HIS BOW WAS BROKEN—

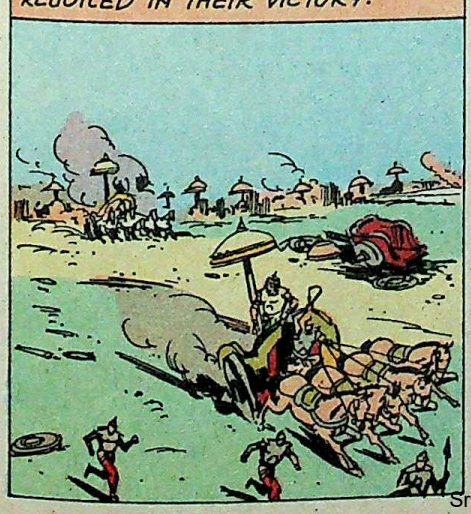
"HIS MACE WAS FELLED—



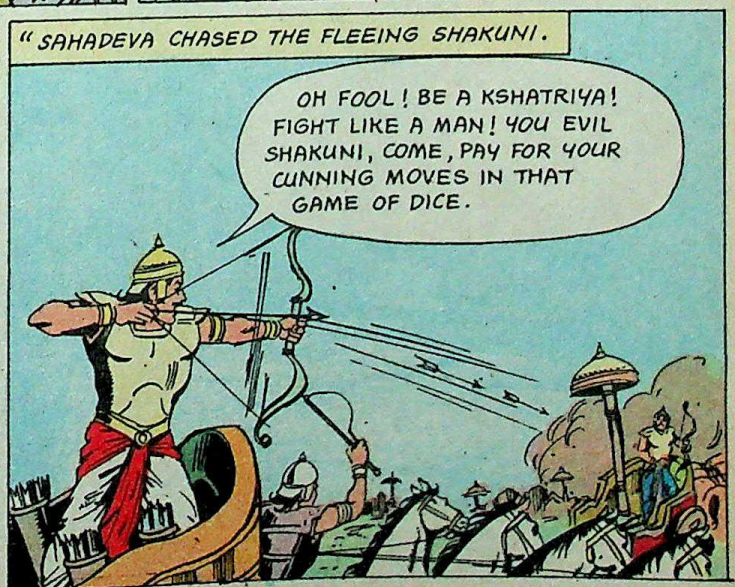
"AND HIS SPEAR FELL LIKE LIGHTNING FROM THE SKY.



"FILLED WITH FEAR, SHAKUNI AND HIS MEN RAN AWAY. THE PANDAVAS REJOICED IN THEIR VICTORY.



"SAHADEVA CHASED THE FLEEING SHAKUNI.



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

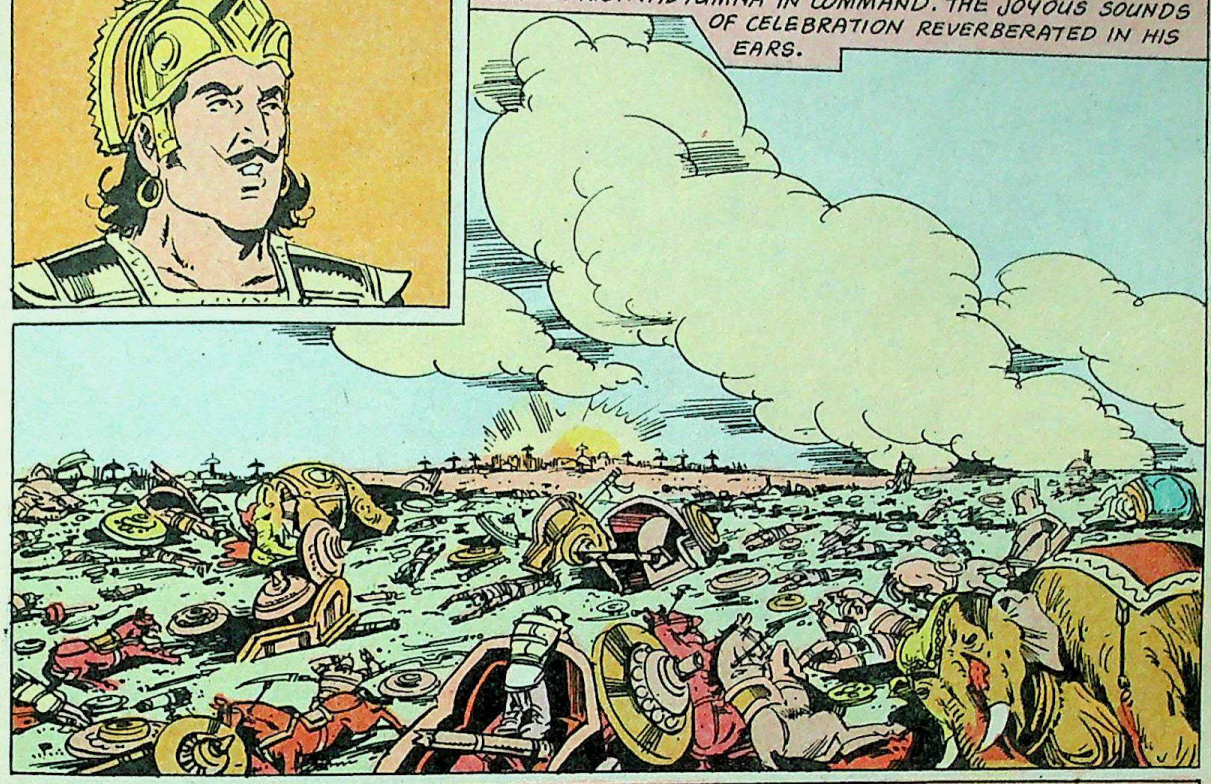
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

Sri Ayodharathi Book

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"DURYODHANA STOOD ALONE, WITHOUT AN ARMY OR A CHARIOT, FORLORN AND WOUNDED.

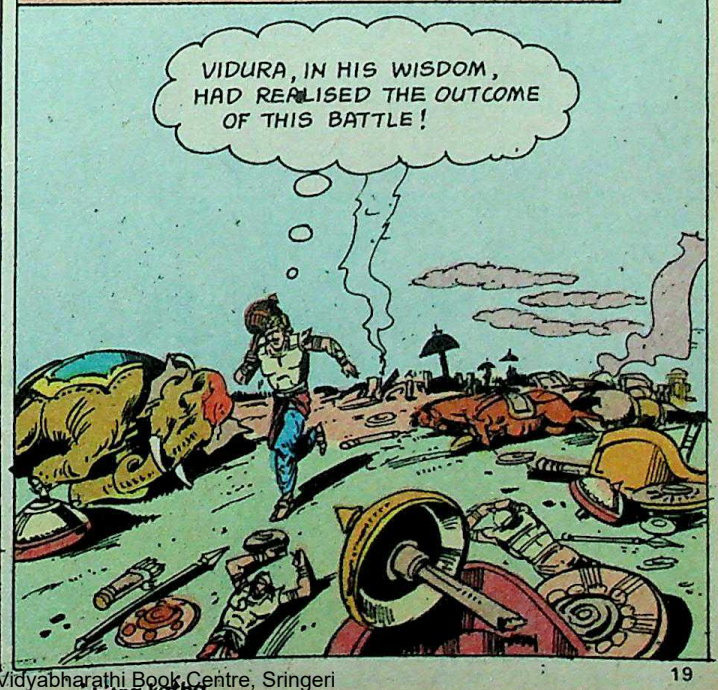
"THERE HE WAS, THE LONE WARRIOR FACING AN ARMY OF TWO THOUSAND CHARIOTS, SEVEN HUNDRED ELEPHANTS, FIVE THOUSAND HORSES AND TEN THOUSAND SOLDIERS WITH DHRISHTADYUMNA IN COMMAND. THE JOYOUS SOUNDS OF CELEBRATION REVERBERATED IN HIS EARS.



"WHEN HE LOOKED AROUND, HE SAW THE BATTLEFIELD STREWN WITH HIS FALLEN SOLDIERS. PETRIFIED WITH FEAR, HE TOOK TO HIS HEELS.

"A MIGHTY KING PROTECTED BY ELEVEN AKSHAUHINIS NOW HAD JUST A MACE OVER HIS SHOULDER TO DEFEND HIM. HE RECALLED VIDURA'S WORDS.

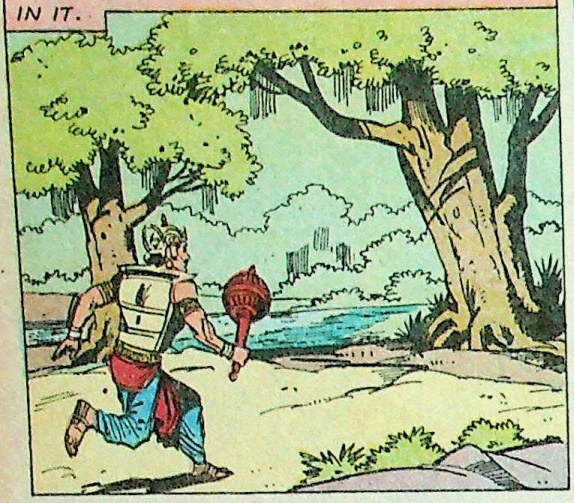
VIDURA, IN HIS WISDOM, HAD REALISED THE OUTCOME OF THIS BATTLE!



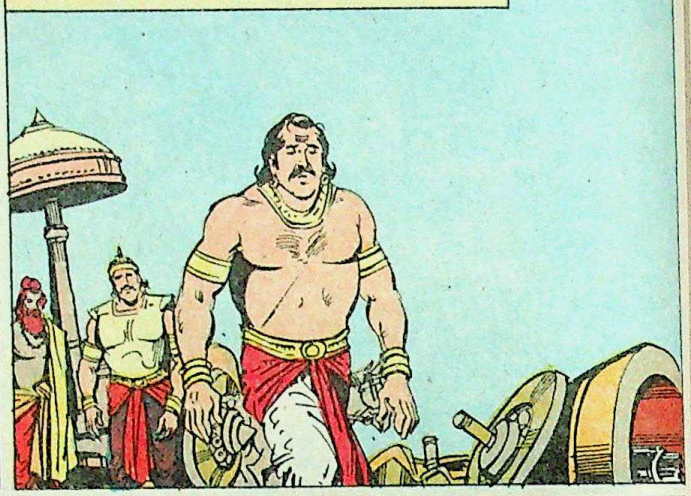
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

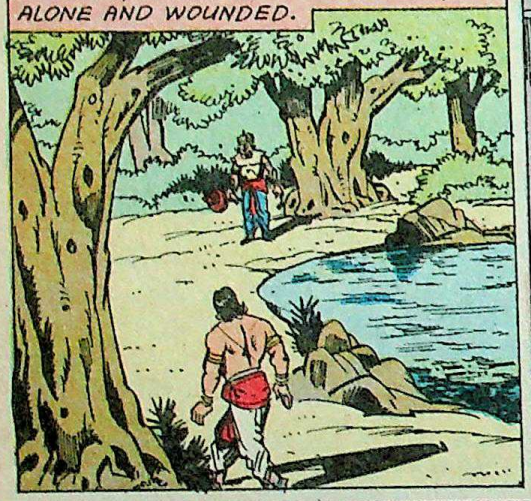
"RUNNING NORTHWARDS, HE CAME UPON A LAKE AND DECIDED TO IMMERSE HIMSELF IN IT.



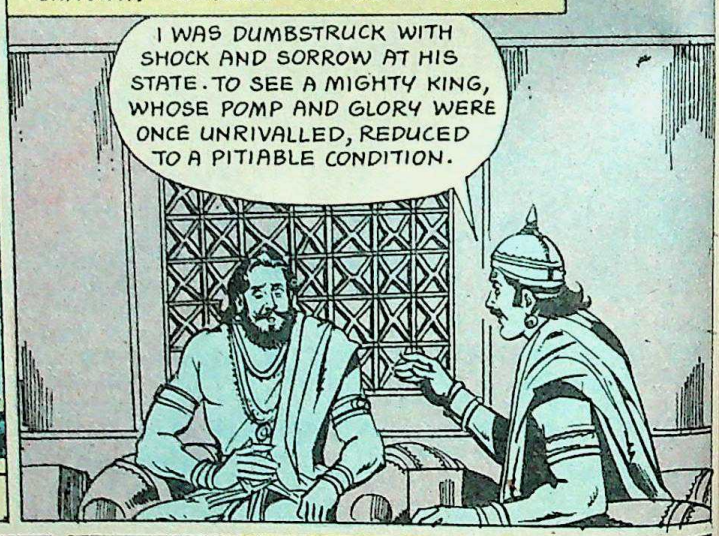
"MEANWHILE, ON SAGE VYASA'S BIDDING, SATYAKI RELEASED SANJAYA AND LET HIM GO.



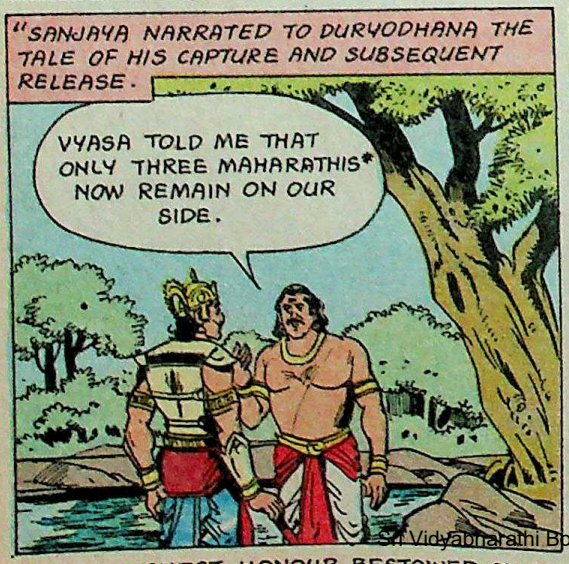
"WHILE SANJAYA WAS RETURNING TO THE CITY, HE ESPIED DURYODHANA, ALONE AND WOUNDED.



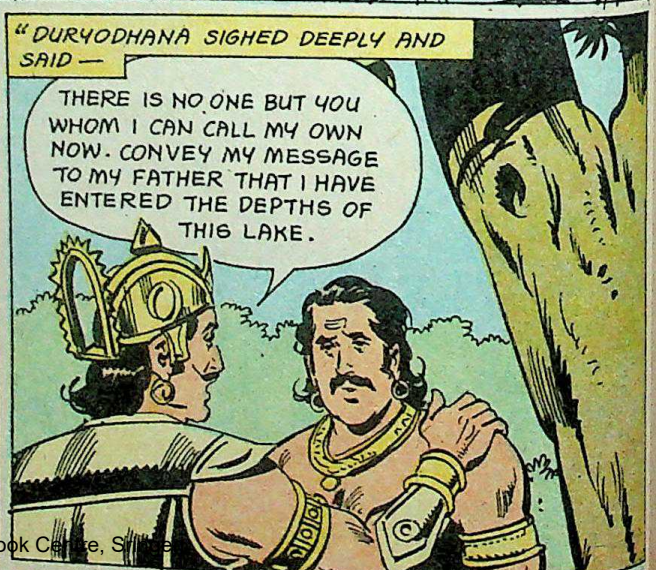
"SANJAYA RECALLED THE SCENE LATER.



"SANJAYA NARRATED TO DURYODHANA THE TALE OF HIS CAPTURE AND SUBSEQUENT RELEASE.



"DURYODHANA SIGHED DEEPLY AND SAID —

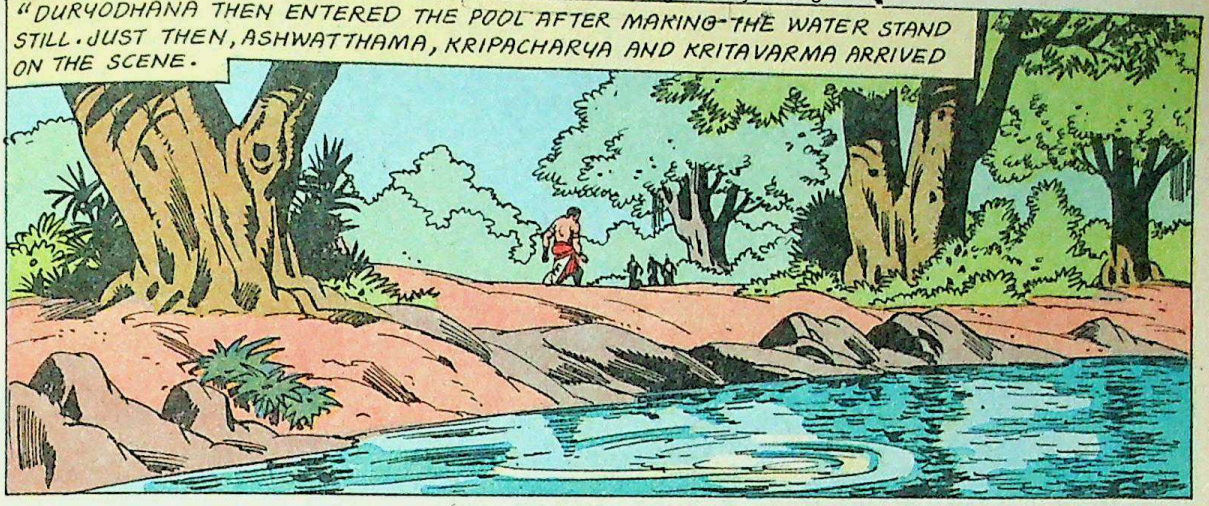


* THE HIGHEST HONOUR BESTOWED ON A WARRIOR.

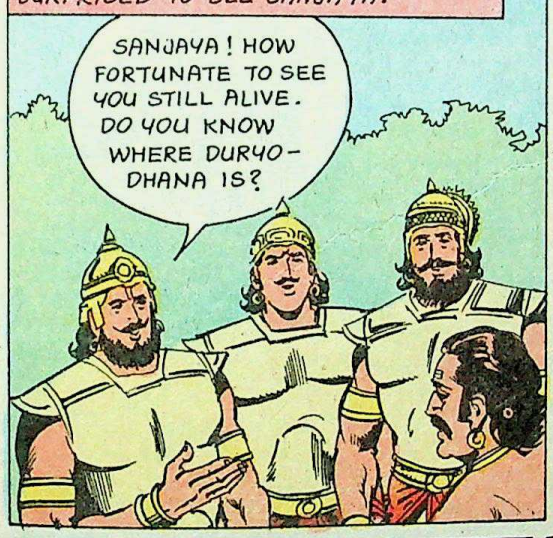
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sirsi

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

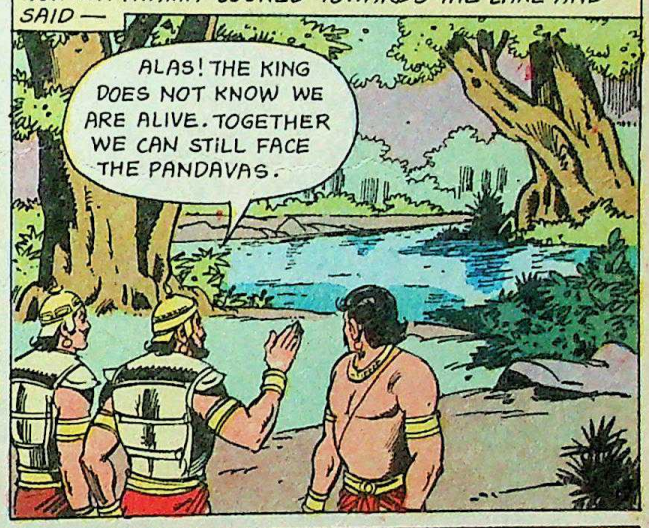
"DURYODHANA THEN ENTERED THE POOL AFTER MAKING THE WATER STAND STILL. JUST THEN, ASHWATTHAMA, KRIPACHARYA AND KRITAVARMA ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.



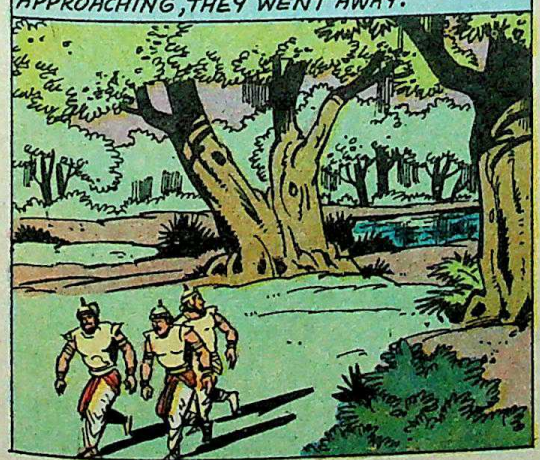
"WOUNDED AND WEARY, THEY WERE SURPRISED TO SEE SANJAYA.



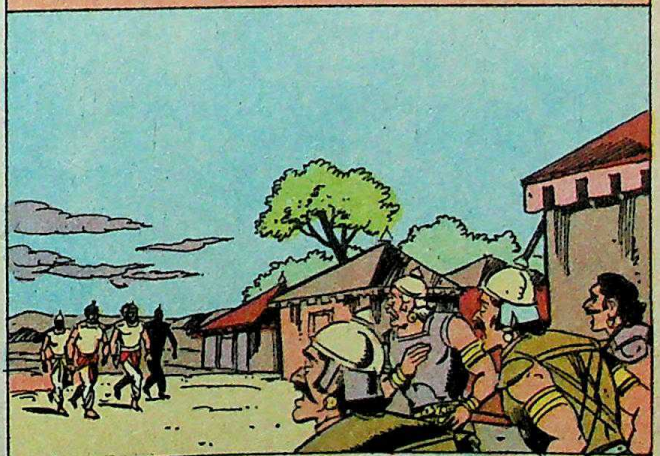
"SANJAYA GAVE THEM DURYODHANA'S MESSAGE. ASHWATTHAMA LOOKED TOWARDS THE LAKE AND SAID —



"THE THREE WARRIORS WAITED AWHILE, BEMOANING DURYODHANA'S DECISION. BUT WHEN THEY HEARD THE SOUND OF SOLDIERS APPROACHING, THEY WENT AWAY.



"ALONG WITH SANJAYA, THEY RETURNED TO THE CAMP. ON HEARING THE NEWS OF THE DEFEAT, THE GUARDS, ALREADY SHAKEN WITH WORRY, BROKE DOWN.

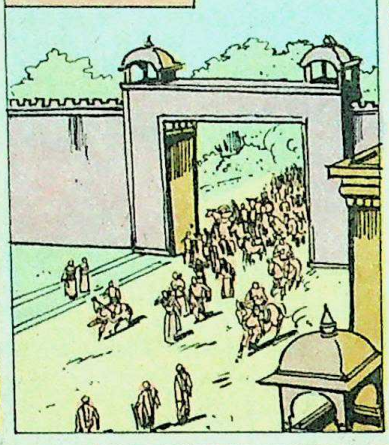


Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

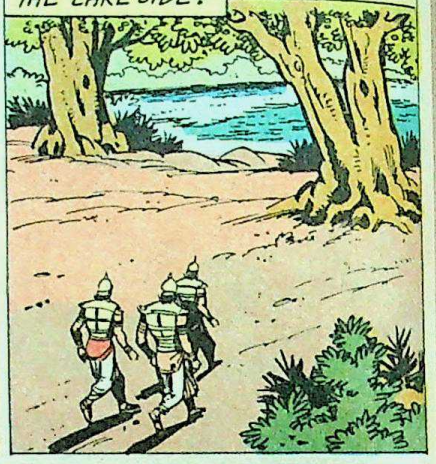
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"THE OLDER MEN OF THE CAMP, WHO WERE LOOKING AFTER THE LADIES, MADE PREPARATIONS TO RETURN TO HASTINAPURA.

"CRYING AND WAILING, THE WOMEN WERE ESCORTED TO THE CITY BY THE SENTRIES AND THE OLD MINISTERS.

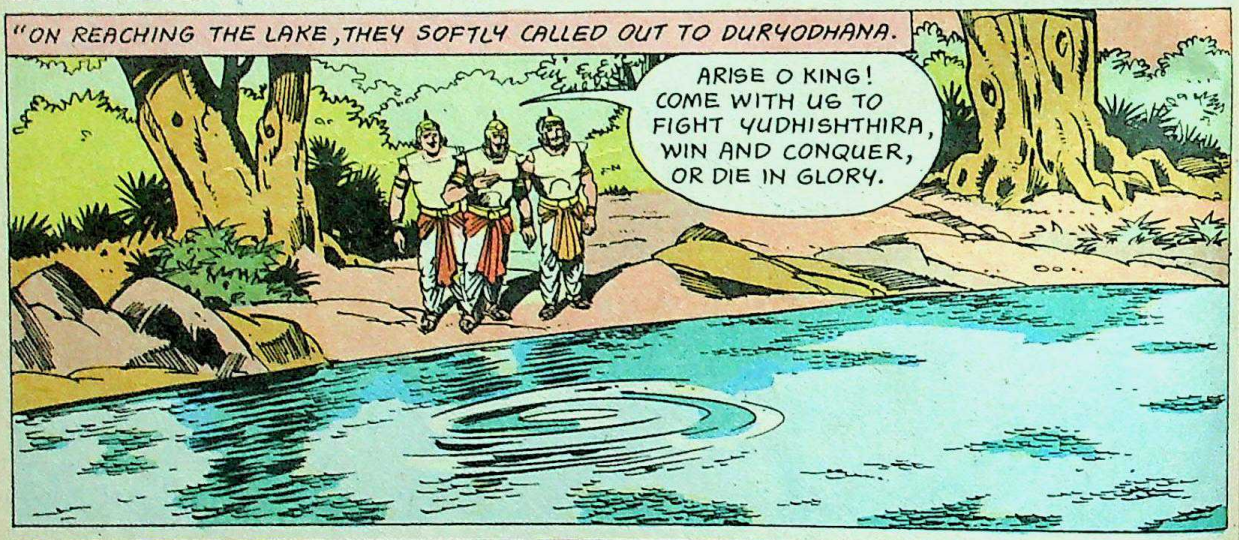


"UNABLE TO BEAR THE LONELINESS OF THE DESERTED CAMP, ASHWATTHAMA, KRIPA AND KRITAVARMA RETURNED TO THE LAKESIDE.



"ON REACHING THE LAKE, THEY SOFTLY CALLED OUT TO DURYODHANA.

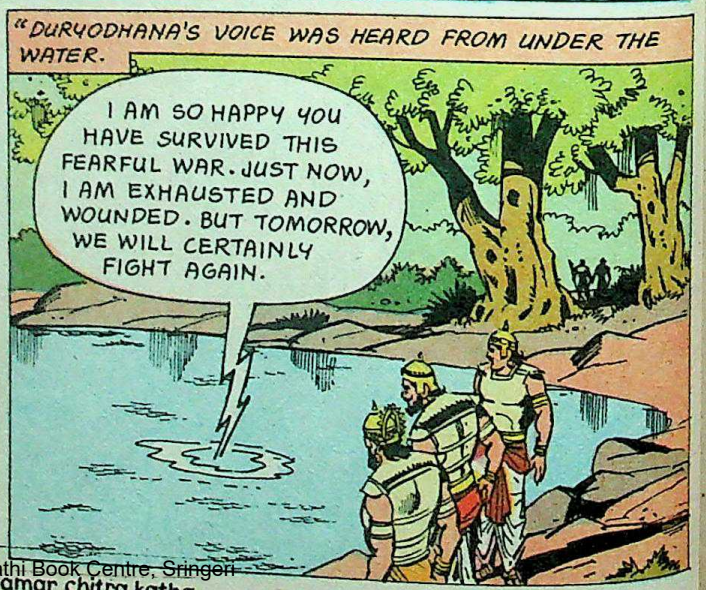
ARISE O KING! COME WITH US TO FIGHT YUDHISHTHIRA, WIN AND CONQUER, OR DIE IN GLORY.



YOU TOO HAVE DESTROYED MUCH OF THE PANDAVA ARMY. WE CAN EASILY SUBDUE THE REMAINING FEW, WOUNDED AND WEARY AS THEY ARE. COME, LET US FIGHT!

"DURYODHANA'S VOICE WAS HEARD FROM UNDER THE WATER.

I AM SO HAPPY YOU HAVE SURVIVED THIS FEARFUL WAR. JUST NOW, I AM EXHAUSTED AND WOUNDED. BUT TOMORROW, WE WILL CERTAINLY FIGHT AGAIN.



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"DELIGHTED AT DURYODHANA'S DECISION TO FIGHT, ASHWATTHAMA DECLARED —

GLORY TO YOU, O KING! WE WILL SURELY DESTROY THEM. I SWEAR I WILL KILL THEM AS SOON AS DAY DAWNS!

"SOME HUNTERS WHO HAPPENED TO COME TO THE LAKE TO QUENCH THEIR THIRST OVERHEARD THE CONVERSATION.

"THEY CONCLUDED THAT DURYODHANA WAS HIDDEN IN THE LAKE AND WAS BEING INVITED TO FIGHT AGAIN. TALKING IN WHISPERS, THEY SAID —

IF WE TELL YUDHISHTHIRA THAT DURYODHANA IS HIDING HERE, WE WILL SURELY BE REWARDED.

COME, LET US GO FAST. MAYBE WE WILL GET SO RICH WE WILL NEVER HAVE TO WORK AGAIN.

"MEANWHILE, YUDHISHTHIRA REALISED THAT DURYODHANA WAS MISSING AND SENT HIS SPIES IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

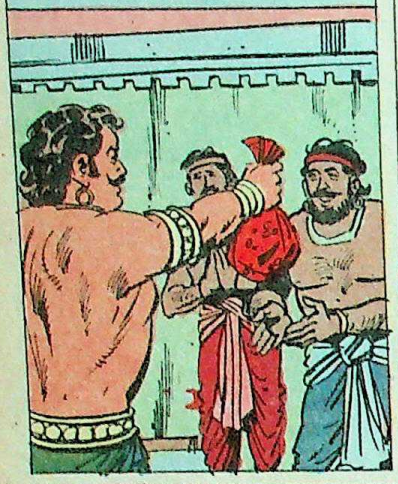
"WHEN THEY RETURNED WITHOUT ANY CLUE OF DURYODHANA'S WHEREABOUTS, YUDHISHTHIRA WAS WORRIED INDEED.

"JUST THEN THE HUNTERS ARRIVED AT THE CAMP. IGNORING THE PROTESTS OF THE GUARDS, THEY FORCED THEIR WAY IN.

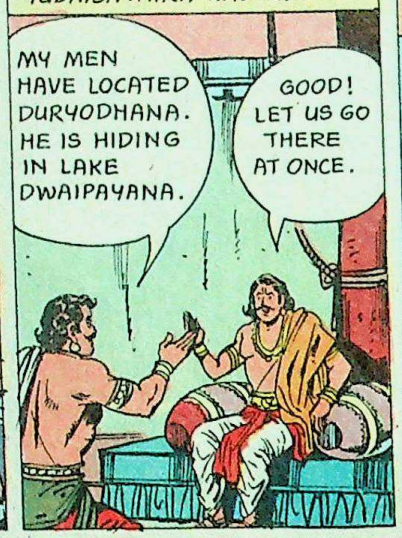
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"THEY NARRATED THE EVENTS AT THE LAKESIDE TO BHEEMA WHO REWARDED THEM HANDSOMELY.

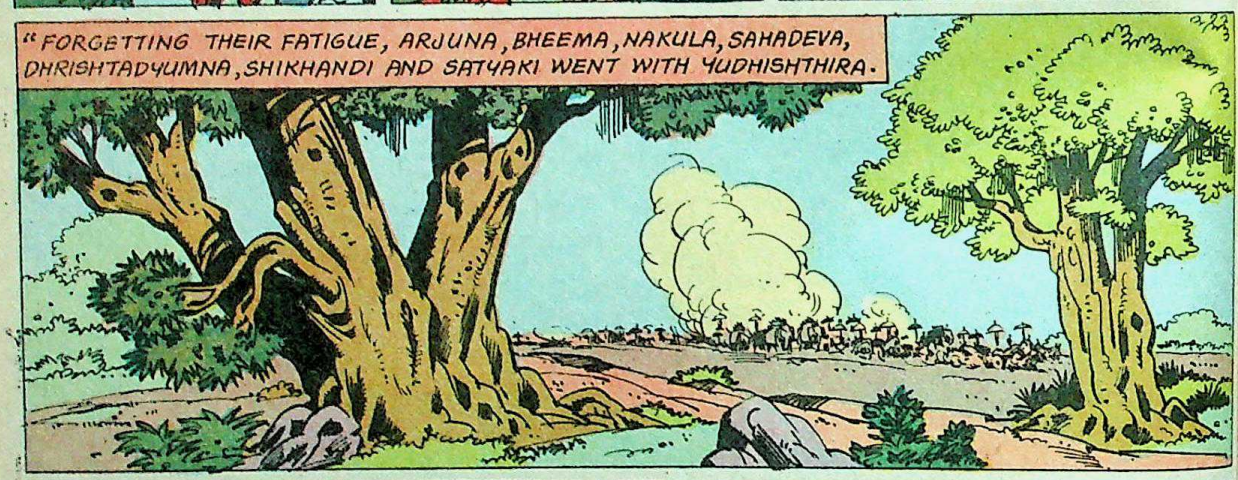


"BHEEMA WENT OVER TO YUDHISHTHIRA AND SAID—



"WITH KRISHNA IN THE LEAD, THE PANDAVAS PROCEEDED TO DWAIPAYANA.

"FORGETTING THEIR FATIGUE, ARJUNA, BHEEMA, NAKULA, SAHADEVA, DHRISHTADYUMNA, SHIKHANDI AND SATYAKI WENT WITH YUDHISHTHIRA.



"WHEN THE SOUND OF APPROACHING ARMY REACHED THEIR EARS, ASHWATTHAMA, KRIPA AND KRITAVARMA TOLD DURYODHANA—

"THE THREE WARRIORS MOVED AWAY AND RESTED UNDER A BANYAN TREE.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"ON REACHING THE LAKE, YUDHISHTHIRA REMARKED—

LOOK, O KRISHNA, HOW THE WATERS HAVE BEEN STILLED BY DURYODHANA. LET HIM USE ALL HIS DEVIOUS WAYS, I WILL GET HIM IN THE END.

YOU TOO CAN USE ALL YOUR SKILLS AGAINST HIM.

"REASSURED BY KRISHNA, YUDHISHTHIRA CALLED OUT TO DURYODHANA.

YOU HAVE CAUSED THE DEATH OF ALL YOUR DEAR ONES, AND NOW YOU HIDE YOURSELF. WHERE IS YOUR PRIDE? YOUR VALOUR? YOUR PROWESS IN ARCHERY? ARISE AND FIGHT LIKE A KSHATRIYA, O KING!

"DURYODHANA RESPONDED FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE WATER—

I HAVE NO CHARIOT, NO WEAPON, NO ARMY. YET IT IS NOT FEAR OR SORROW THAT HAS BROUGHT ME HERE. I AM JUST TOO TIRED NOW. LET YOUR MEN REST AWHILE TOO. TOMORROW WE WILL RESUME FIGHTING.

"YUDHISHTHIRA REPLIED—

WE HAVE RESTED ENOUGH. COME OUT AND FIGHT. CONQUER US AND RULE, OR BE KILLED LIKE A WARRIOR.

"DURYODHANA SAID—

WITH ALL MY LOVED ONES DEAD, I HAVE NO DESIRE TO RULE. TAKE OVER THIS LAND. I WILL RETIRE TO THE FOREST IN BARK AND DEERSKIN.

"YUDHISHTHIRA SHOUTED IN ANGER—

DO NOT TWITTER USELESSLY LIKE A BIRD. WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU NOW TO GIFT THIS LAND TO ME? WOULD A PROUD KSHATRIYA LIKE ME ACCEPT CHARITY? I WILL CLAIM THE KINGDOM BY DEFEATING YOU IN BATTLE. COME AND FIGHT.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"DURYODHANA FLAILED AROUND HIS ARMS IN FRUSTRATION, SIGHED REPEATEDLY, BUT REMAINED INSIDE. HE SAID —

YOU HAVE YOUR ARMY, CHARIOTS AND WEAPONS. I AM ALONE, OUTNUMBERED AND WITHOUT A CHARIOT. HOW CAN I POSSIBLY FIGHT...

...IT IS NOT FAIR FOR AN ARMY TO FIGHT AN ISOLATED, WEAPONLESS, ARMOURLESS, FATIGUED MAN. I CAN FIGHT ANY ONE OF YOU AT A TIME, I CAN EVEN KILL YOU IF WE FIGHT RIGHTEOUSLY LIKE TRUE KSHATRIYAS.

"YUDHISHTHIRA REPLIED SARCASTICALLY —

OH! I AM GLAD TO HEAR YOU KNOW THE KSHATRIYA CODE OF CONDUCT. BUT ANYWAY, SINCE YOU ARE READY TO FIGHT, WE WILL ABIDE BY YOUR WISH. CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON AND FIGHT ANYONE OF US. THE REST WILL JUST BE SPECTATORS.

"DURYODHANA SAID —

IN THAT CASE, I CHOOSE MY MACE. LET ANYONE OF YOUR WARRIORS COME FORWARD TO OPPOSE ME.

COME, LET US SEE YOUR VALOUR, YOUR MANHOOD. I AM SURE THAT EVEN IF LORD INDRA COMES TO YOUR AID TODAY, YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ALIVE.

"THUS TAUNTED, DURYODHANA ROSE UP AND APPEARED ON THE SURFACE LIKE THE RISING SUN. HE HAD AN IRON MACE IN HIS HAND.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Singeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"THRILLED TO SEE DURYODHANA EMERGE AT LAST, THE PANDAVAS REJOICED AND CLASPED ONE ANOTHER'S HANDS.

"DURYODHANA DECLARED—

I WILL FIGHT ALL OF YOU BUT ONE AT A TIME. YOU RIGHTEOUS WARRIORS KNOW THE RULES OF CONDUCT.

BUT DID YOU NOT KNOW THE RULES OF CONDUCT WHEN YOU SURROUNDED ABHIMANYU? ONLY WHEN THEY FACE A PROBLEM THEMSELVES, DO MEN QUOTE FROM LAW BOOKS.

"YUDHISHTHIRA THEN MADE A MAGNANIMOUS OFFER—

YOU MAY CHOOSE ANY ONE OF US TO FIGHT WITH YOU. AND IF YOU KILL ONE OF US IN THE FIGHT, WE WILL ANOINT YOU KING.

"DURYODHANA PUT ON THE GOLDEN ARMOUR AND THE HEADGEAR OFFERED TO HIM.

"KRISHNA, WHO HAD BEEN WATCHING SILENTLY FOR A WHILE, SAID TO YUDHISHTHIRA WITH EXTREME ANGER—

HOW COULD YOU ASK HIM TO FIGHT ANY ONE OF YOU? ONLY BHEEMA IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO FACE DURYODHANA IN A MACE COMBAT,. BUT HE HAS NO PRACTICE. DURYODHANA HAS BEEN PRACTISING FOR THIRTEEN YEARS WITH AN IRON IMAGE OF BHEEMA...

...THIS IS GOING TO BE ANOTHER GAME OF DICE. YOU KNOW THAT PRACTICE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SKILL IN A DUEL. NO ONE CAN BEAT DURYODHANA IN A FAIR MACEFIGHT.

Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"BHEEMA CAME FORWARD AND REASSURED KRISHNA —

DO NOT WORRY, O KRISHNA. I WILL DEFINITELY KILL DURYODHANA TODAY.

"KRISHNA WAS OVERJOYED.

YES! BHEEMA. IT IS YOU WHO KILLED THE OTHER SONS OF DHRITARASHTRA. NOW KILL DURYODHANA AND PLACE THE WORLD AT YUDHISHTHIRA'S FEET. BUT TAKE CARE! DURYODHANA HAS BOTH SKILL AND EXPERIENCE.

"BHEEMA WENT UP TO DURYODHANA AND DECLARED —

RECALL ALL YOUR MISDEEDS, O DURYODHANA. THE TORTURES AND INSULTS YOU HURLED AT US. BECAUSE OF YOU, BHEESHMA, DRONA, KARNA AND SHALYA LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES. TODAY IT IS YOUR TURN.

WHAT IS THE USE OF BOASTING. COME AND FIGHT.

"THE FIGHT WAS ABOUT TO START, WHEN BALARAMA, WHO HAD BEEN AWAY ON A PILGRIMAGE, ARRIVED THERE. KRISHNA AND THE PANDAVAS RUSHED TO GREET HIM.

"KRISHNA SAID —

COME AND WATCH YOUR DISCIPLES IN ACTION.

I HAVE RETURNED AFTER FORTYTWO DAYS ON PILGRIMAGE. I AM ANXIOUS TO SEE MY PUPILS.

Sri Kumbharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"BHEEMA AND DURYODHANA RAISED THEIR MACES IN A GREETING TO BALARAMA.

"AFTER DESCRIBING THE PILGRIMAGE AT LENGTH, BALARAMA SAID TO YUDHISHTHIRA.

I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT SAMANTAPANCHAKA IS THE MOST HOLY SPOT.

IT IS QUITE CLOSE BY. LET THE DUEL TAKE PLACE THERE. FOR THOSE WHO DIE THERE ARE SURE TO ATTAIN HEAVEN.

SO BE IT!

"ALL OF THEM PROCEEDED THERE. DURYODHANA, WITH HIS HEAD HELD HIGH AND MACE ALOFT, WALKED PROUDLY AMONG THE PANDAVAS. SOON THEY REACHED THE BANKS OF THE RIVER SARASWATI. BHEEMA AND DURYODHANA GOT READY FOR THE DUEL.

"LIKE TWO ENRAGED ELEPHANTS, THEY FACED EACH OTHER. TWO HANDSOME MEN, WITH MACES UPRAISED, BENT ON DESTRUCTION.

"ADDRESSING YUDHISHTHIRA, DURYODHANA SAID PROUDLY—

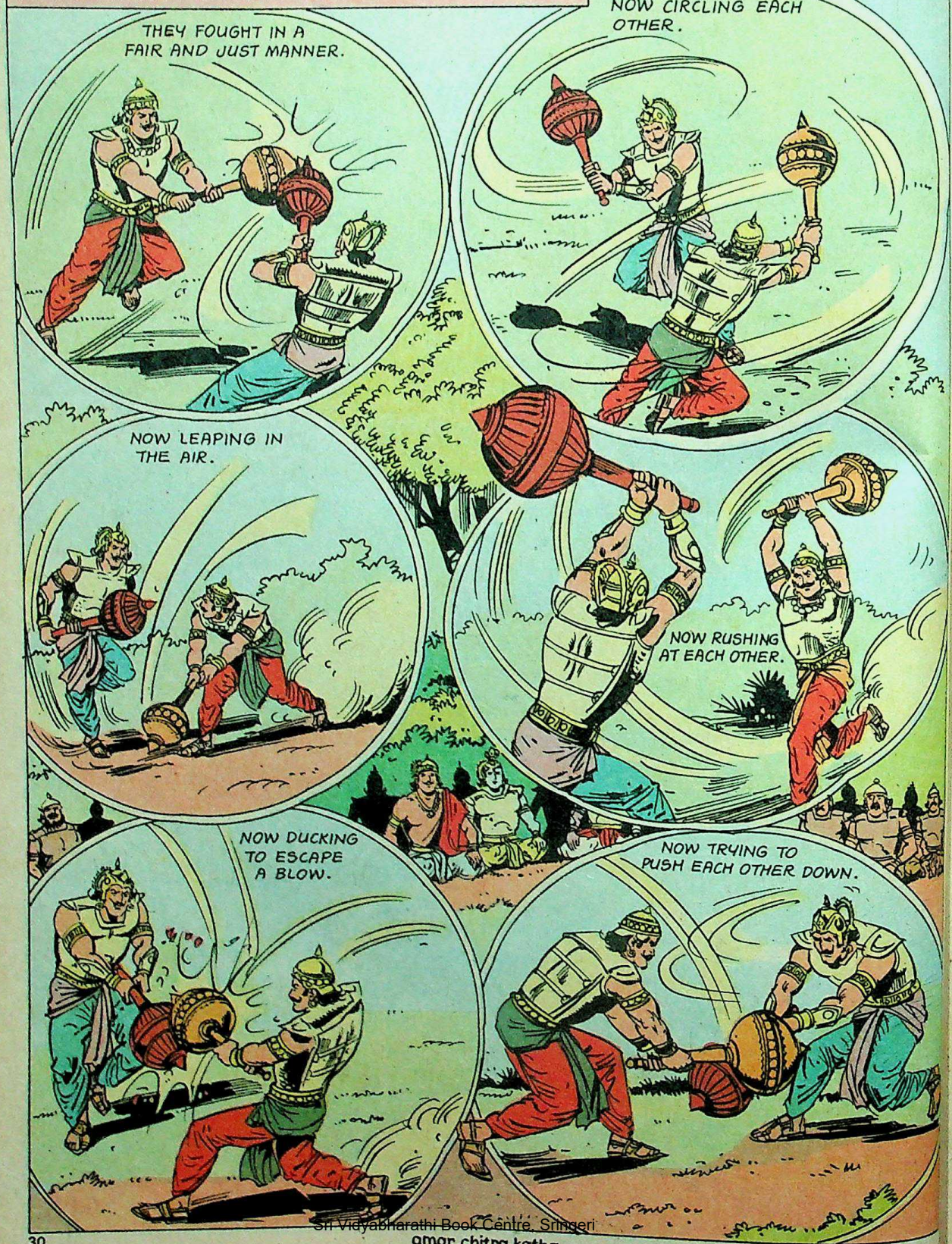
BRAVE WARRIORS! SIT NEAR US AND WITNESS THE FIGHT.

"SO THEY ALL SAT AROUND THE ARENA. THE BLUE-CLAD BALARAMA LOOKED LIKE THE RESPLENDENT MOON.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"THE FIGHT WAS FIERCE. SOON WITH MIGHTY BLOWS OF THEIR MACES, THEY WERE BOTH WOUNDED AND THEY BLED PROFUSELY.



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"WHILE BALARAMA PROUDLY WATCHED HIS PUPILS, ARJUNA ASKED KRISHNA ANXIOUSLY.

TELL ME, KRISHNA, WHO IS THE SUPERIOR OF THE TWO?

BOTH OF THEM ARE TRAINED BY MY BROTHER BALARAMA. BHEEMA IS MORE POWERFUL BUT DURYODHANA IS FAR AHEAD IN SKILL AND EXPERIENCE.

IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BEAT DURYODHANA IN A FAIR FIGHT. BHEEMA MAY HAVE TO RESORT TO UNFAIR MEANS. REMEMBER HIS VOW TO BREAK DURYODHANA'S THIGHS?

"BHEEMA AND DURYODHANA WERE MEANWHILE FIGHTING FIERCELY. DURYODHANA SPRANG UP IN THE AIR TO DODGE A BLOW.

"CATCHING BHEEMA'S EYE, ARJUNA MEANINGFULLY STRUCK HIS OWN THIGH FORCEFULLY.

"CATCHING THE HINT, AND REMEMBERING HIS VOW, BHEEMA WAITED FOR A CHANCE. AFTER THE NEXT BOUT IN WHICH DURYODHANA ALMOST MADE HIM FAINT, BHEEMA TRIED TO ANTICIPATE HIS ADVERSARY'S NEXT MOVE.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"WHEN DURYODHANA JUMPED UP NEXT TIME, BHEEMA HIT OUT FORCEFULLY AT HIS THIGHS.

"WITH HIS THIGHS BROKEN, DURYODHANA COLLAPSED TO THE GROUND.

"THE ELATED PANDAVAS CAME CLOSER TO SEE THE FALLEN HERO. PROUDLY BHEEMA KICKED DURYODHANA'S CROWN AND PUT HIS FOOT ON HIS HEAD.

YOU WICKED MAN! YOU CHEAT! SUFFER FOR ALL THE INSULTS YOU HURLED AT US.

"YUDHISHTHIRA STEPPED FORWARD.

ENOUGH! BHEEMA. YOU HAVE FULFILLED YOUR VOW. DO NOT INSULT HIM SO. AFTER ALL HE IS OUR BROTHER, A KING AND THE LORD OF ELEVEN AKSHAUHINIS.

REPRIMANDING BHEEMA, YUDHISHTHIRA WENT TO DURYODHANA TO TELL HIM HOW LUCKY HE WAS TO DIE AND ATTAIN HEAVEN WHILE THEY WERE DESTINED TO LIVE ON IN A WORLD BEREFT OF SO MANY LOVED ONES. THUS THE RIGHTEOUS YUDHISHTHIRA BEMOANED THE FALL OF DURYODHANA.

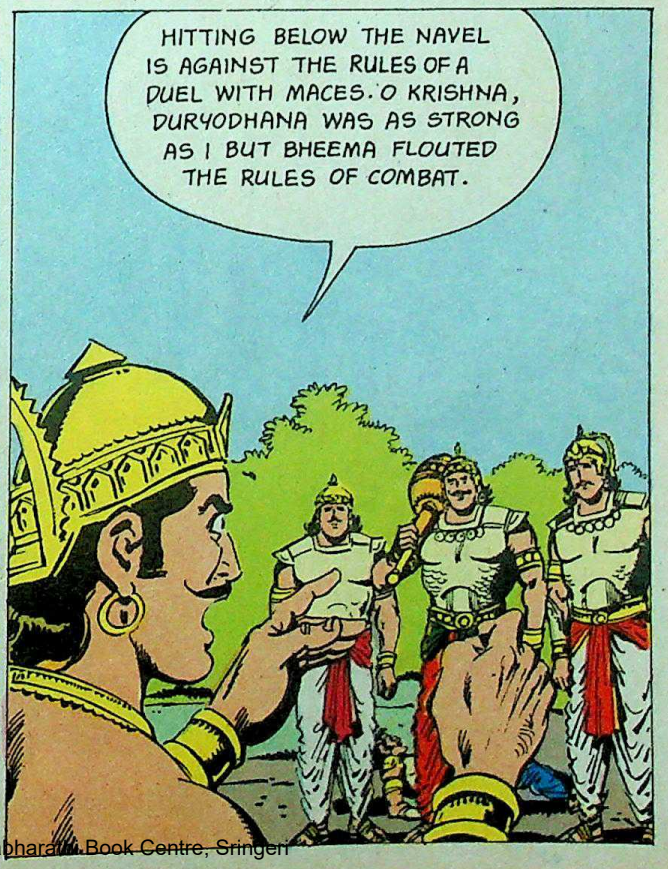
"THUS ENDS THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VYASA'S IMMORTAL ITIHASA, MAHABHARATA.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

Mahabharata – 39

AFTER THE WAR



Sri Mahabharata Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"IN HIS RAGE, HE RUSHED AT BHEEMA WITH HIS PLOUGH* HELD ALOFT.

"KRISHNA TRIED TO RESTRAIN HIM.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR SUCH A DISPLAY OF ANGER AGAINST BHEEMA. REMEMBER HOW HE HAD VOWED TO CRUSH DURYODHANA'S THIGH WHEN DRAUPADI WAS DISGRACED?

YOU CANNOT TOLERATE THIS SINGLE OFFENCE. HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW THE KAURAVAS KILLED ABHIMANYU? COME, CALM YOURSELF, DEAR BROTHER.

"BALARAMA, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE PACIFIED.

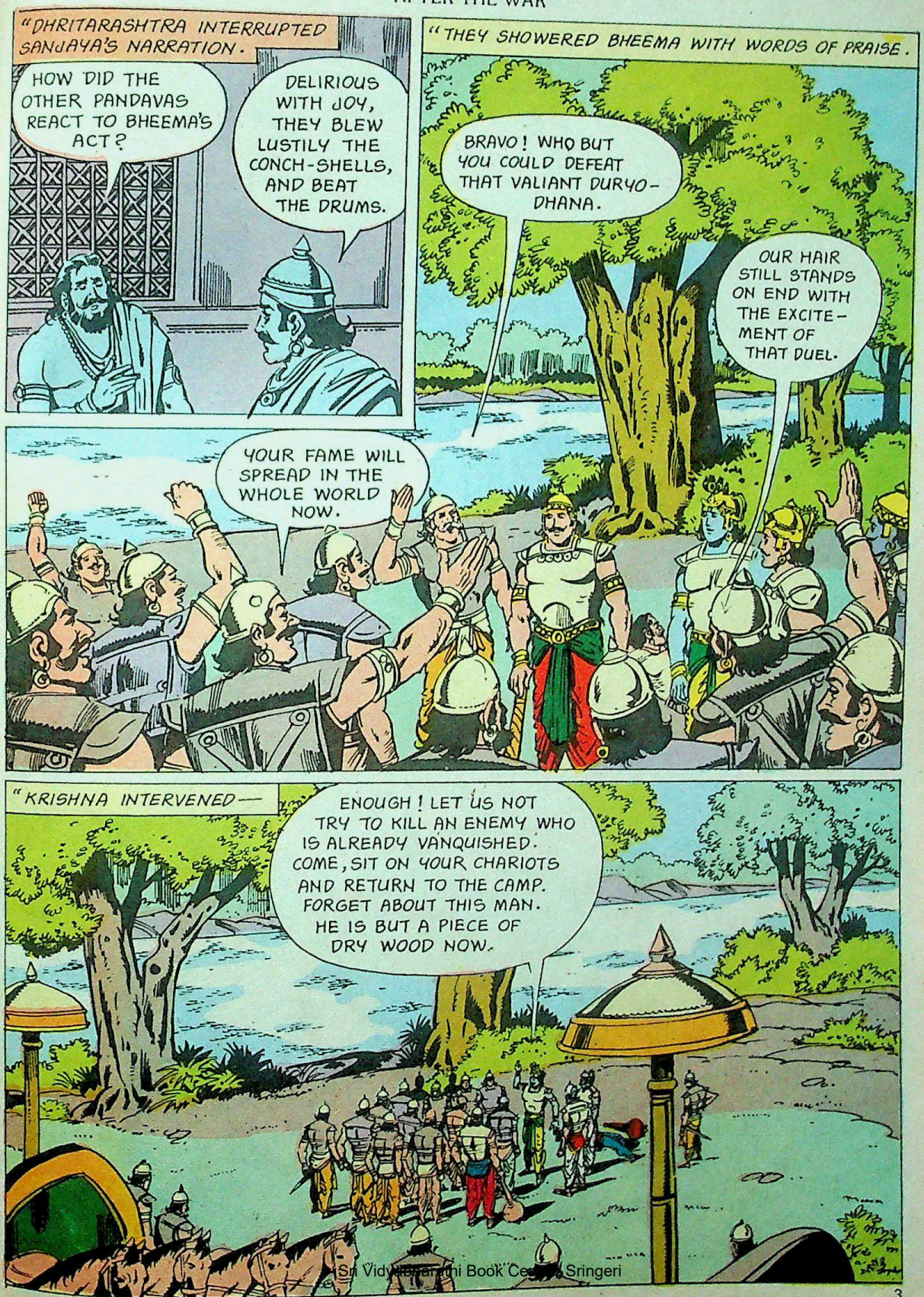
I DECLARE BHEEMA'S CONDUCT IN THE WAR AS UNWORTHY OF A KSHATRIYA.

"BALARAMA ASCENDED HIS CHARIOT AND LEFT IN A HUFF.

Sri Vidya

* THE PLOUGH WAS BALARAMA'S PERSONAL WEAPON

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

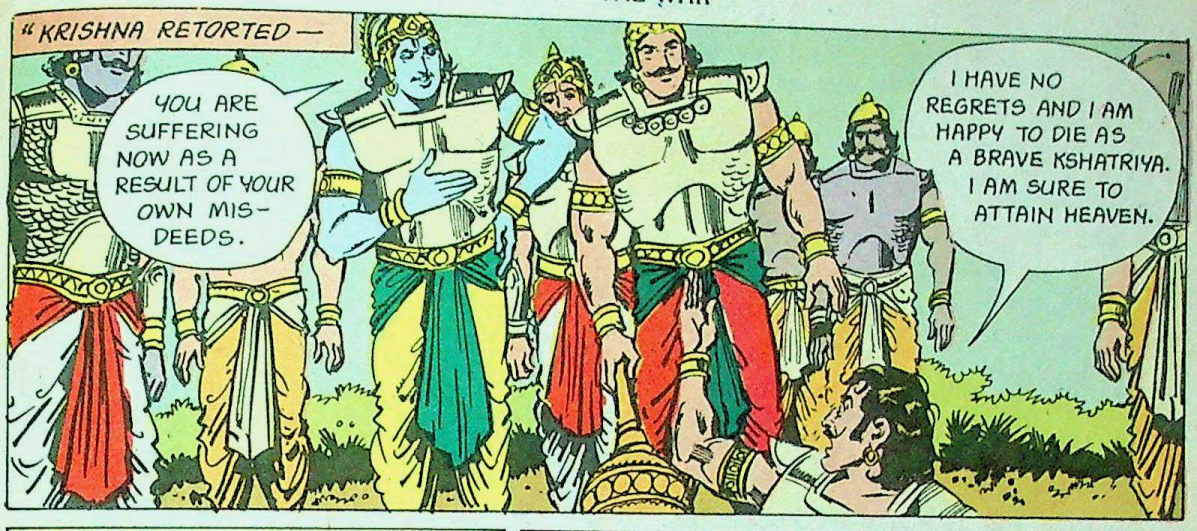


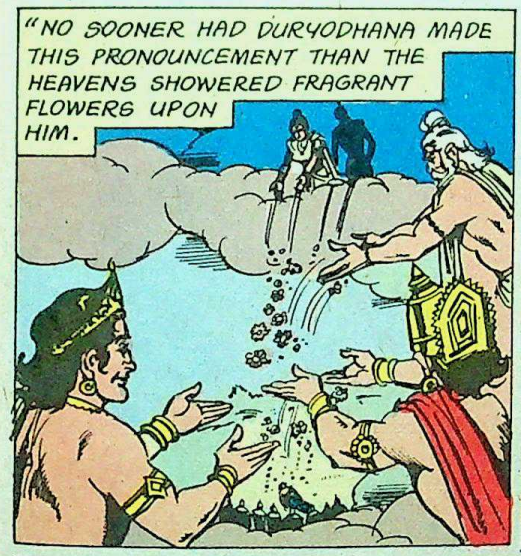
Sri Vidyabharati Book Centre, Sringeri

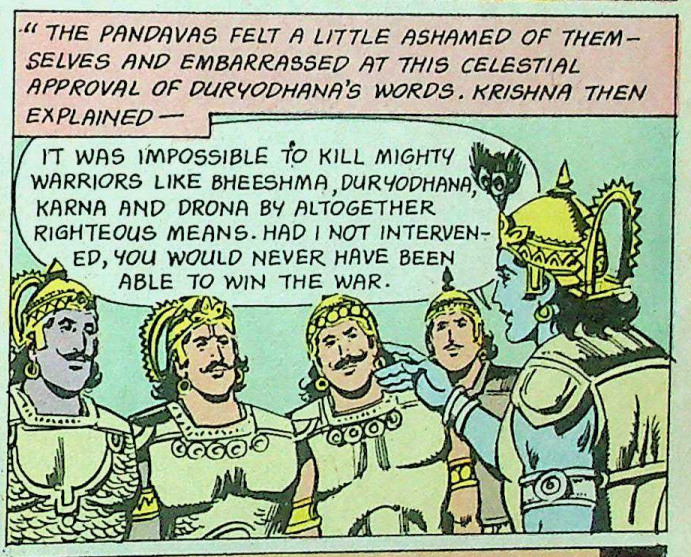
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

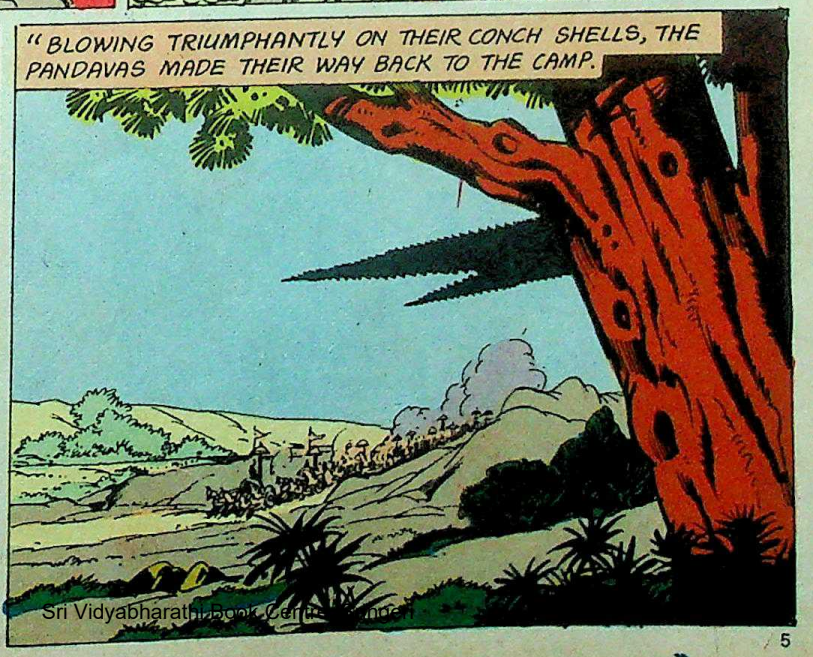
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri









Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Mysore

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"THEY FIRST WENT TO DURYODHANA'S QUARTERS, NOW DESERTED AND DESOLATE.

"THE OTHERS GOT DOWN FROM THEIR CHARIOTS. KRISHNA SAID TO ARJUNA —

REMOVE YOUR GANDEEVA AND THE CELESTIAL QUIVERS FROM THE CHARIOT AND COME DOWN.

"AS SOON AS KRISHNA DESCENDED FROM THE CHARIOT, THE MONKEY WHICH HAD ADORNED THE BANNER SO FAR SUDDENLY VANISHED.

"AND THE GREAT CHARIOT, WHICH HAD WITHSTOOD THE CELESTIAL WEAPONS OF DRONA AND KARNA, WENT UP IN FLAMES.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Trust, Srirangam

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"IN AN INSTANT THE ENTIRE CHARIOT INCLUDING THE HORSES AND REINS WAS REDUCED TO ASHES.

"WHILE THE REST OF THE PANDAVAS WATCHED THIS MIRACLE WITH AWE AND FEAR, ARJUNA FELL AT KRISHNA'S FEET.

O KRISHNA! HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? HOW COULD THE CHARIOT SUDDENLY BE BURNT DOWN?

"KRISHNA GENTLY EXPLAINED —

THIS CHARIOT HAD ALREADY BEEN BURNT AND CHARRED BY THE REPEATED ONSLAUGHT OF THE ENEMY'S WEAPONS. BUT AS LONG AS I SAT IN IT, IT APPEARED TO BE INTACT.

NOW THAT YOUR MIGHTY TASK IS COMPLETED, I HAVE ABANDONED IT. SO THE CHARIOT IS NOW A HEAP OF ASHES.

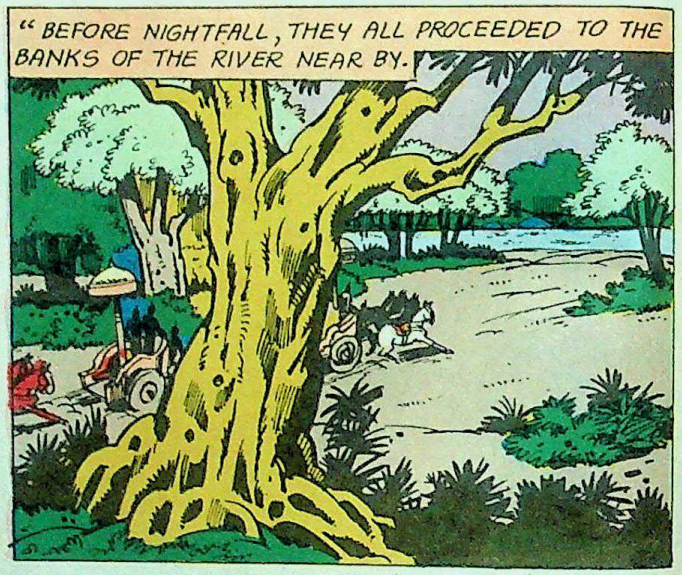
"SMILING, KRISHNA THEN EMBRACED YUDHISHTHIRA AND SAID —

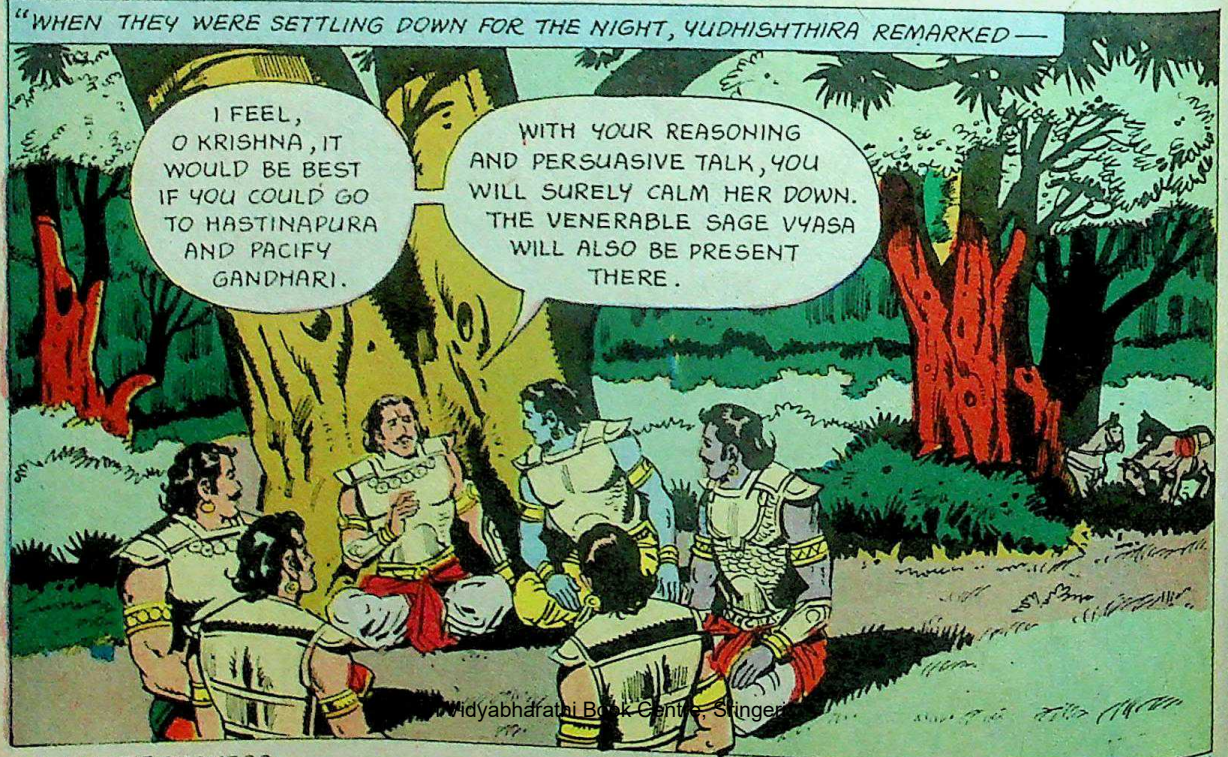
IT IS FORTUNATE THAT YOU HAVE EMERGED VICTORIOUS IN THIS WAR. REMEMBER HOW YOU HAD ASKED ME TO PROTECT ARJUNA? HERE HE HAS EMERGED UNSCATHED FROM THE TERRIBLE WAR AND IS SAFE AND SOUND WITH ALL HIS BROTHERS.

IT IS BY YOUR GRACE, O LORD, THAT WE HAVE WON THIS WAR.

Vidyabharati Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri





Vidyabharati Book Centre, Sringeri

* RIGHTEOUSNESS

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"KRISHNA READILY AGREED AND LEFT FOR HASTINAPURA ON HIS CHARIOT.

JANAMEJAYA INTERRUPTED VAISHAMPAYANA —

WAS IT NECESSARY TO SEND KRISHNA FOR THIS TASK ?

YES, IT WAS. YUDHISHTHIRA REALISED HOW GANDHARI WOULD HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF HER SONS. UNASSUAGED, THAT VIRTUOUS WOMAN'S ANGER COULD ANNIHILATE THE WHOLE WORLD. THAT IS WHY YUDHISHTHIRA REQUESTED THE LORD HIMSELF TO RUSH TO HASTINAPURA AND SAVE THE SITUATION.

"ON REACHING HASTINAPURA, KRISHNA WENT TO DHRITARASHTRA'S PALACE.

"BOWING RESPECTFULLY TO THE AGED KING, HE GREETED SAGE VYASA AND GANDHARI WHO WERE ALSO SEATED THERE.

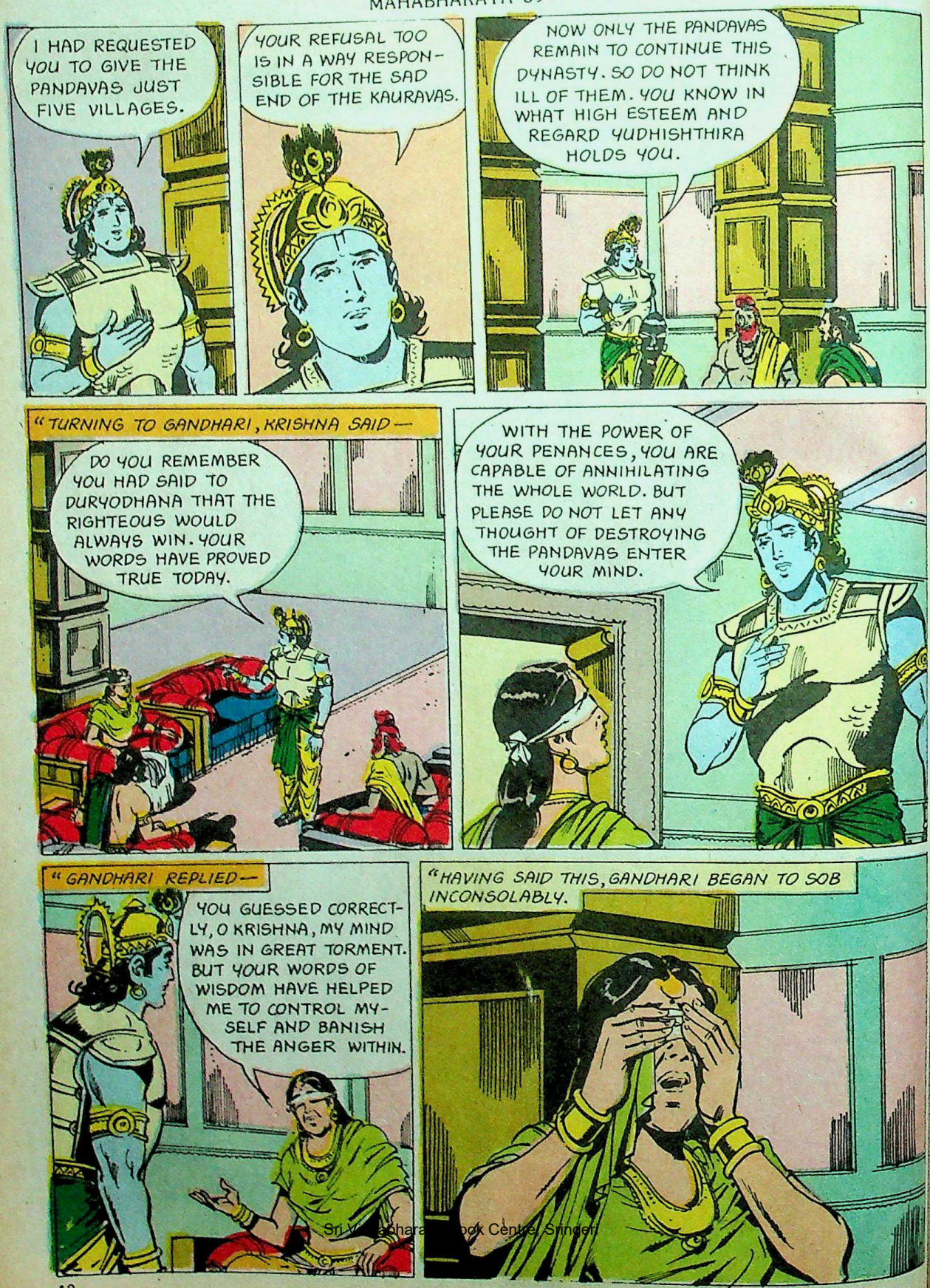
"HOLDING DHRITARASHTRA'S HAND IN HIS OWN, KRISHNA WEPT IN SYMPATHY. THEN CONTROLLING HIS EMOTIONS, HE SAID AFTER A WHILE —

BELIEVE ME, THE PANDAVAS DID TRY THEIR BEST TO PREVENT THIS DESTRUCTION OF YOUR RACE.

THEY BORE ALL THE INSULTS HEAPED ON THEM BY THE KAURAVAS AND SPENT SO MANY YEARS IN THE FOREST.

Sri Vijayabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

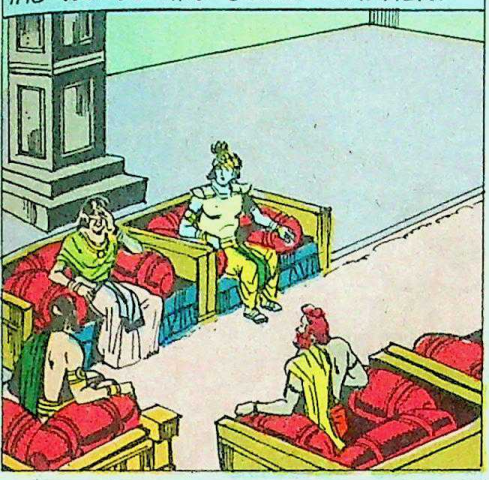
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri



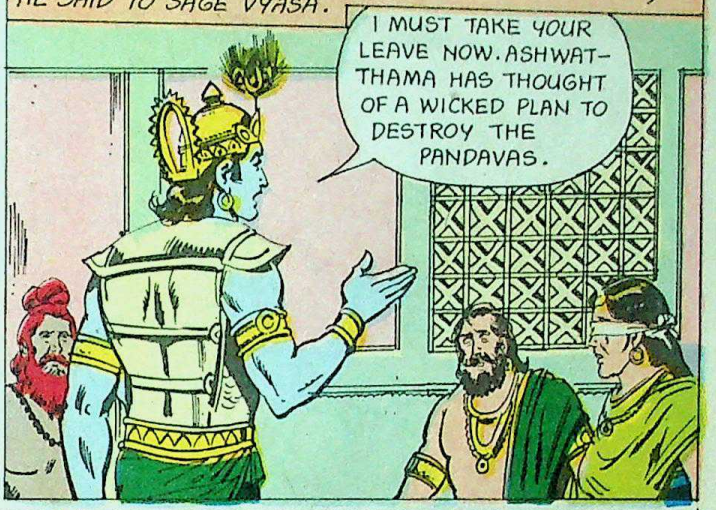
Sri V... Bharati Book Centre, Srirangam

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

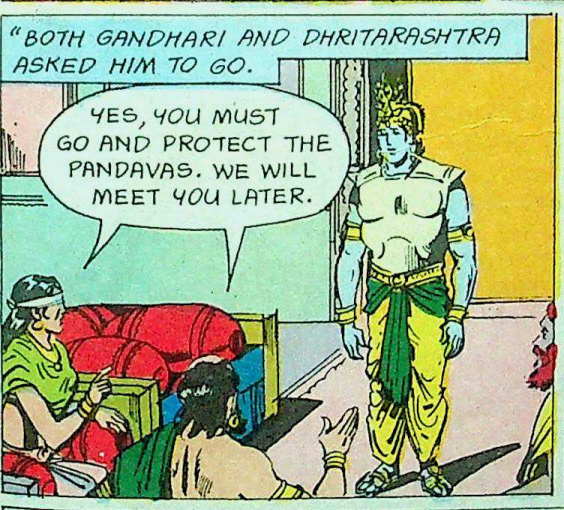
"KRISHNA SAT FOR A WHILE TRYING TO CONSOLE THE AGED KING AND THE DESOLATE MOTHER WITH HIS SOOTHING WORDS AND GENTLE MANNER.



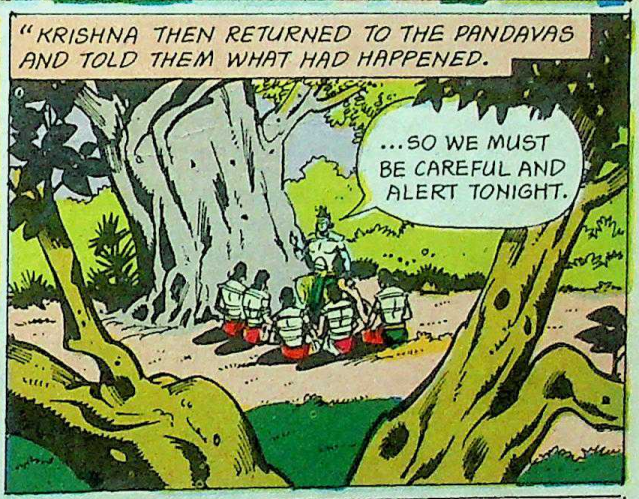
"JUST THEN, HE DIVINED THE EVIL PLOT EVOLVING IN ASHWATTHAMA'S MIND. STANDING UP WITH A START, HE SAID TO SAGE VYASA.



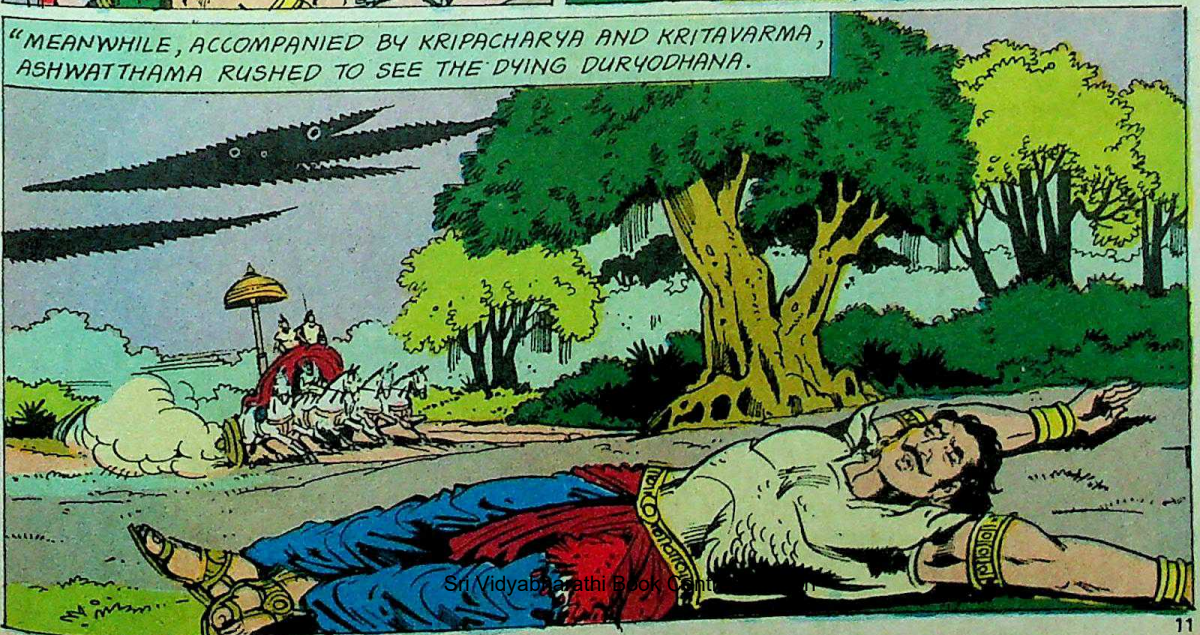
"BOTH GANDHARI AND DHRITARASHTRA ASKED HIM TO GO.



"KRISHNA THEN RETURNED TO THE PANDAVAS AND TOLD THEM WHAT HAD HAPPENED.



"MEANWHILE, ACCOMPANIED BY KRIPACHARYA AND KRITAVARMA, ASHWATTHAMA RUSHED TO SEE THE DYING DURYODHANA.



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"THEY FOUND DURYODHANA BLEEDING PROFUSELY AND TOSSING AND TURNING HELPLESSLY IN AGONY.

"QUICKLY THEY GOT OFF FROM THE CHARIOT AND SAT BESIDE HIM.

"ASHWATTHAMA COULD NOT BEAR TO SEE THE KING IN THIS PATHETIC STATE. WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES, HE SAID—

OH! WHAT IS THIS WORLD WHERE A KING OF YOUR MIGHT AND STATURE CAN BE LEFT TO ROLL IN THE DUST.

WHERE IS YOUR GREAT ARMY, YOUR ROYAL UMBRELLA, YOUR POMP AND VALOUR? SURELY NOTHING IN THE WORLD CAN BE RELIED UPON. IT IS TRANSIENT AND EPHEMERAL.

"DURYODHANA TOO BROKE DOWN AT ASHWATTHAMA'S DISPLAY OF SORROW.

EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD IS DESTINED FOR DESTRUCTION. APPARENTLY MY MOMENT OF DOOM HAS ALSO COME. HENCE YOU FIND ME IN THIS STATE.

YET I AM HAPPY THAT NEVER ONCE DID I TURN MY BACK IN WAR. IT WAS ONLY BY CHEATING THAT THE ENEMY COULD DESTROY ME. I HAVE BEEN TRUE TO MY DUTY AS A KSHATRIYA. SO DO NOT GRIEVE FOR ME, FRIENDS.

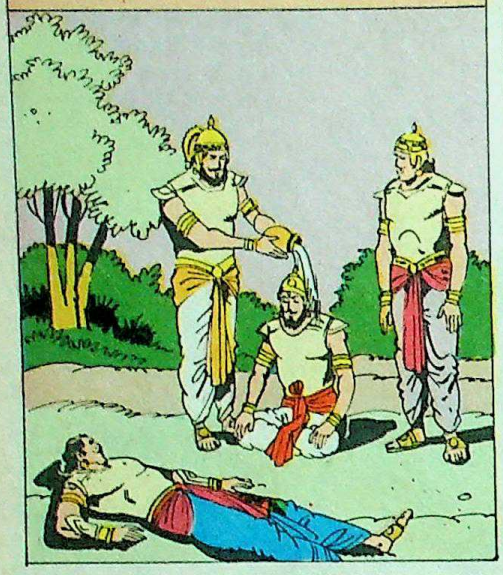
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

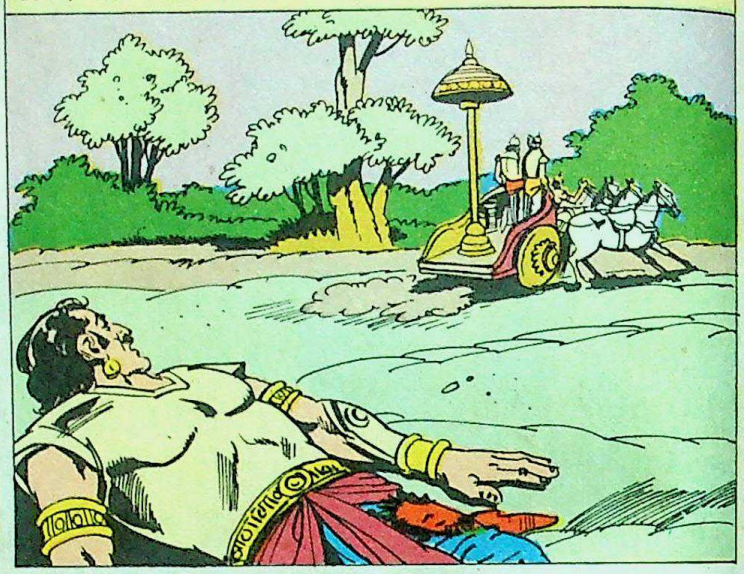
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Bharatiya Book Centre, Shringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"KRIPACHARYA POURED THE WATER OVER ASHWATTHAMA AS A RITUAL OF THE CEREMONIAL BATH.

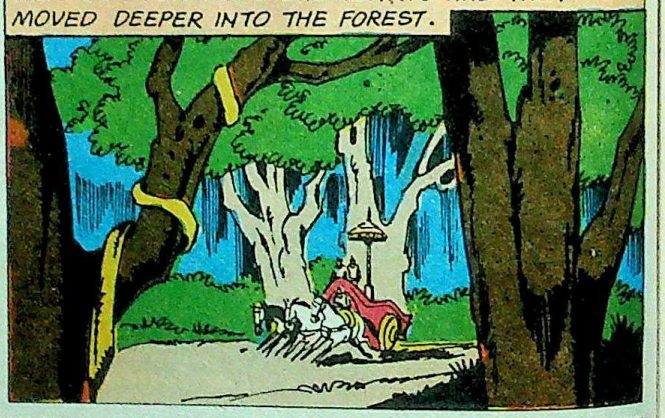


"ASHWATTHAMA EMBRACED THE PROSTRATE DURYODHANA IN FAREWELL AND THE THREE WARRIORS LEFT THE KING TO SPEND THE DARK NIGHT ALONE.

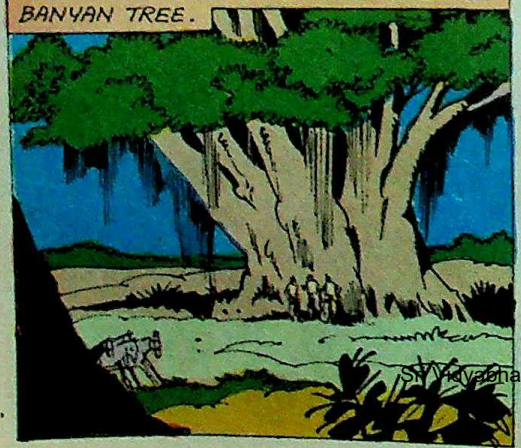


"SOON THEY SIGHTED THE CAMP, BUT WARY OF THE PANDAVAS, THEY HALTED IN A NEARBY FOREST.

"THEY RESTED FOR A WHILE. SOON THE JOYOUS SOUNDS OF CELEBRATION FROM THE PANDAVA CAMP PUT FEAR IN THEIR HEARTS AND THEY MOVED DEEPER INTO THE FOREST.



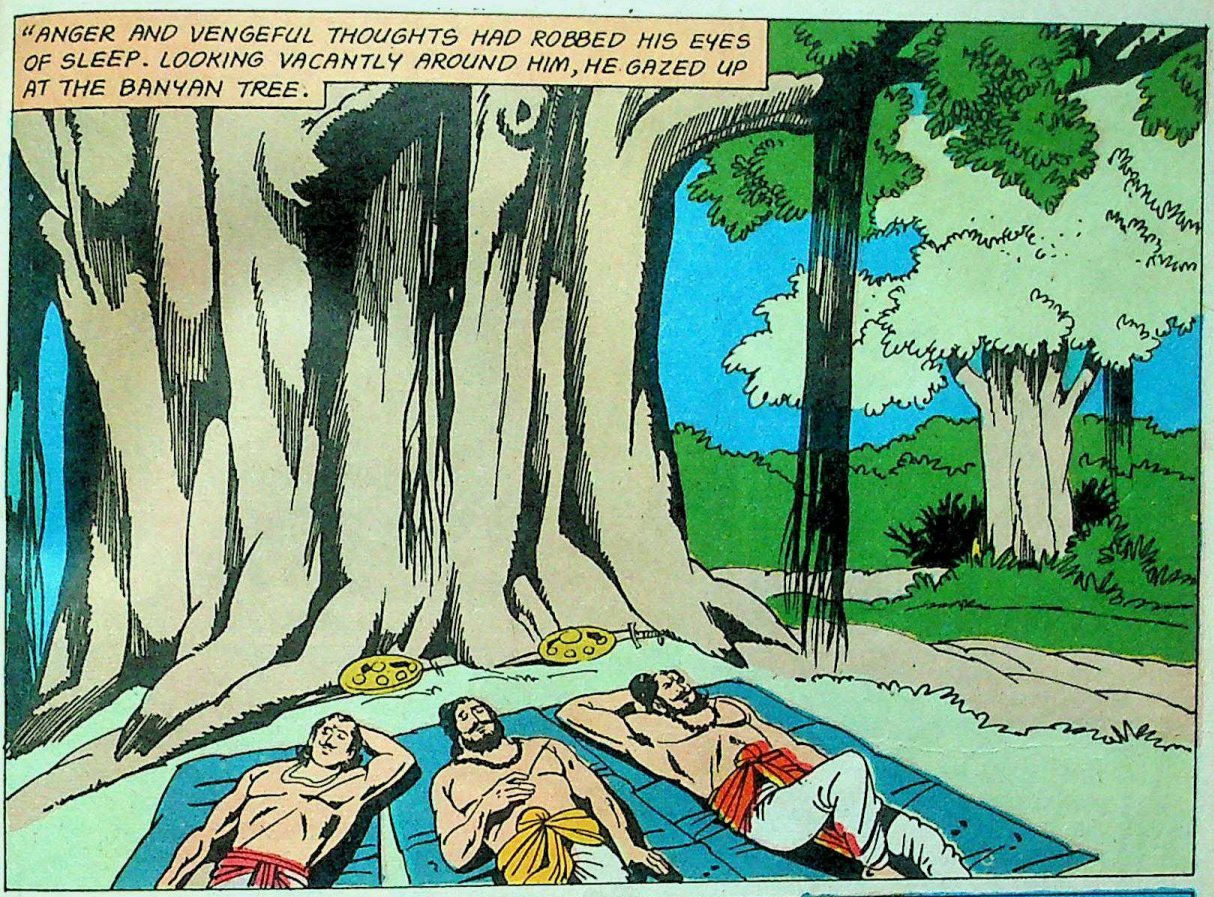
"SAFE IN THE HEART OF THE FOREST, THEY REFRESHED THEIR HORSES AND DECIDED TO REST UNDER A SPREADING BANYAN TREE.

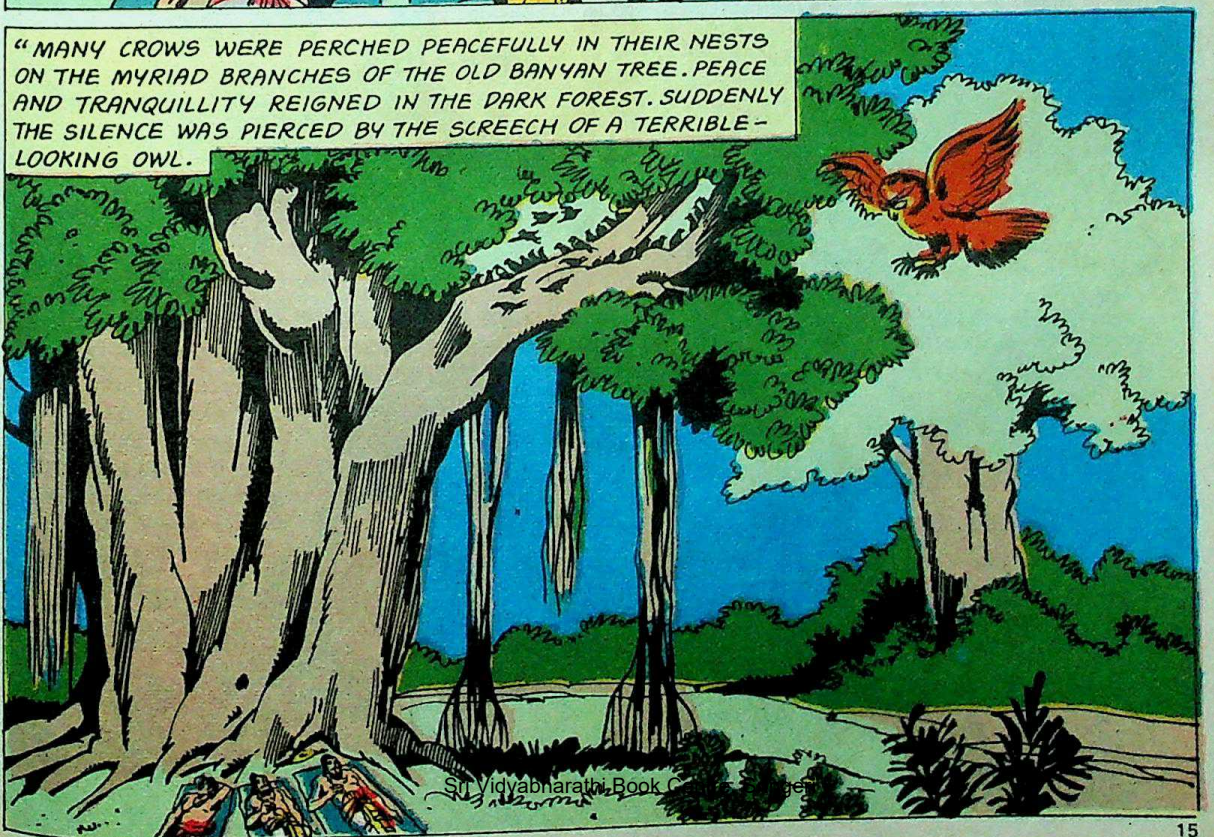


"WEARY AND WOUNDED, KRITAVARMA AND KRIPACHARYA FELL ASLEEP AS SOON AS THEY LAY DOWN. BUT ASHWATTHAMA COULD NOT.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri



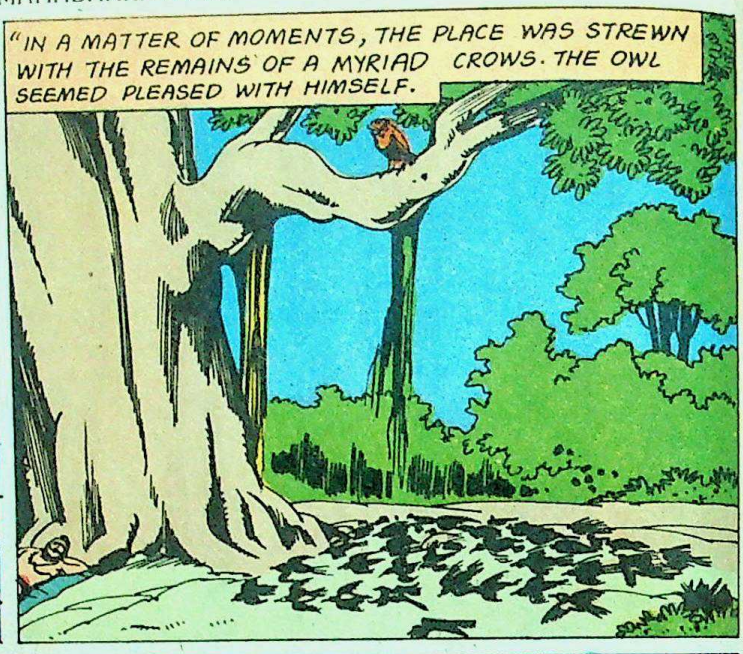


Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Bangalore

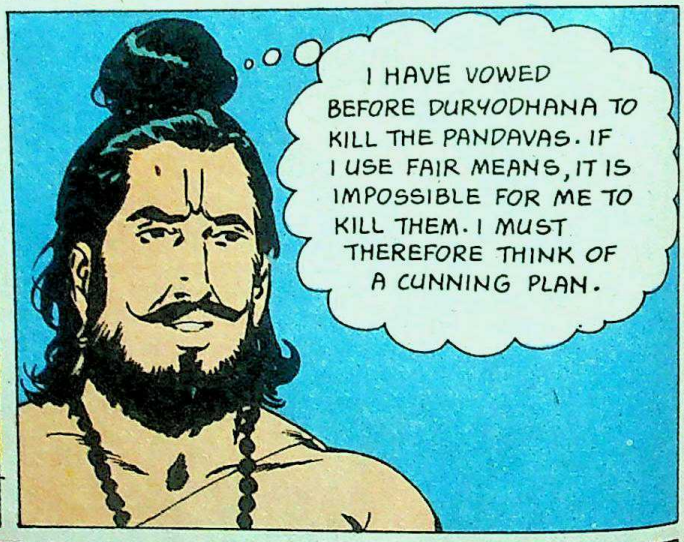
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

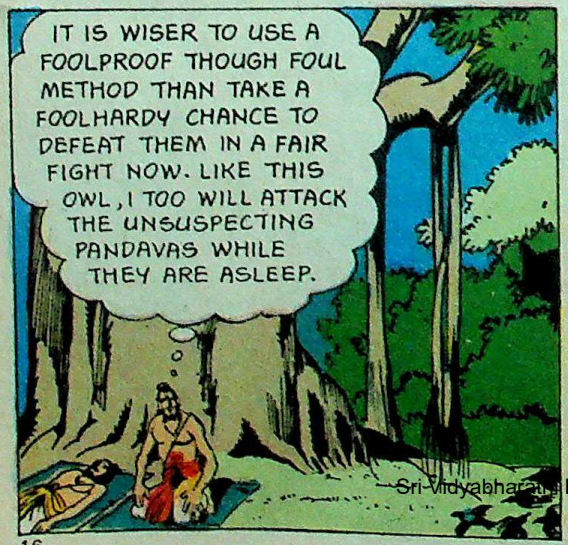
"HE SWEPT DOWN ON THE SLEEPING CROWS AND ATTACKED THEM WITHOUT MERCY.

"IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, THE PLACE WAS STREWN WITH THE REMAINS OF A MYRIAD CROWS. THE OWL SEEMED PLEASED WITH HIMSELF.

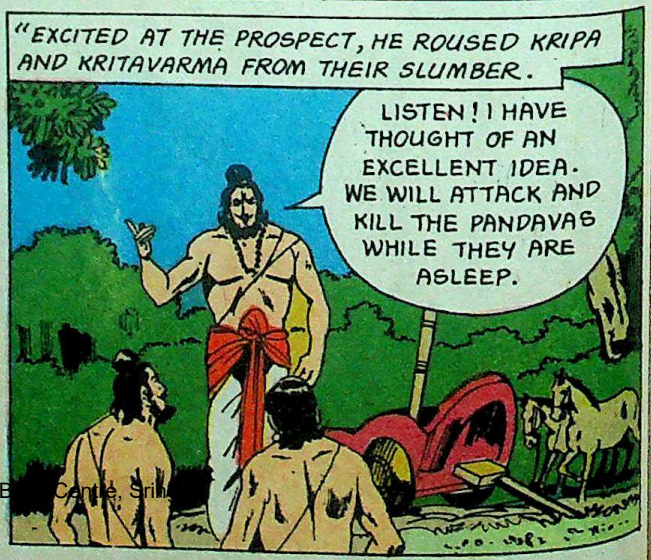


"WATCHING THIS FROM BELOW, AN IDEA TOOK ROOT IN ASHWATTHAMA'S MIND.





"EXCITED AT THE PROSPECT, HE ROUSED KRIPA AND KRITAVARMA FROM THEIR SLUMBER.



Sri Vidyabharati Book Centre, Srirangam

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"HORRIFIED AT HIS SUGGESTION, THEY GAZED AT HIM SPEECHLESS WITH SHOCK. ASHWATTHAMA SAID—

A MIGHTY RULER OF ELEVEN AKSHAUHINIS LIES IN THE DUST. ONLY THREE OF US NOW REMAIN FROM THAT ARMY. WHAT DO YOU THINK WE CAN DO NOW TO SET MATTERS RIGHT?

"KRIPACHARYA TRIED TO COUNSEL THE EXCITED ASHWATTHAMA.

VALOUR AND VIRTUE ARE BOTH ESSENTIAL FOR A MAN. IT IS FUTILE MERELY TO THINK OF A GOOD DEED WITHOUT TAKING ANY ACTION. IT IS EQUALLY FOOLISH TO PLUNGE INTO ACTIVITY WITHOUT ANY CONSIDERATION OF RIGHT AND WRONG.

DURYODHANA WAS GREEDY AND ILL-ADVISED. CRUEL AND IMPATIENT, HE REFUSED TO LISTEN TO WELL-MEANING FRIENDS AND MADE ENEMIES OF THE PANDAVAS. WE FOLLOWED HIM AND HAVE REACHED THIS SORRY STATE.

MY OWN MIND NOW REFUSES TO FUNCTION. LET US NOW GO TO DHRITARASHTRA, GANDHARI AND VIDURA AND SEEK THEIR COUNSEL. THEY WILL SURELY GUIDE US PROPERLY.

"ASHWATTHAMA COULD NOT DENY THE WISDOM OF THE ACHARYA'S WORDS. YET HE WAS ADAMANT.

EVERYONE OF US FEELS CONVINCED THAT HIS WAY OF THINKING IS THE ONLY RIGHT AND PROPER ONE. I HAVE MADE UP MY MIND AND I WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY.

THE PANDAVAS WILL BE SLEEPING PEACEFULLY WITH THEIR ARMOURS CAST OFF. ONLY AFTER I HAVE KILLED ALL OF THEM WILL I FEEL I HAVE AVENGED THE DEATH OF MY FATHER.

Sri Vidya Sharada Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"KRIPACHARYA SAID —

YOU SEEM TO HAVE MADE UP YOUR MIND. BUT, ANYWAY, SLEEP AWHILE AND REST YOURSELF. TOMORROW MORNING WE WILL BOTH COME WITH YOU TO ATTACK THE PANDAVAS. YOU WILL FEEL REFRESHED AFTER SOME REST.

"ASHWATTHAMA SAW THROUGH THE ACHARYA'S GENTLE PERSUASION. HE SHOUTED —

HOW CAN A MAN FILLED WITH ANXIETY, SORROW, ANGER OR DESIRE SLEEP? I AM TROUBLED BY ALL OF THESE. I CANNOT CONTROL MYSELF NOW. I WILL REST ONLY AFTER GETTING RID OF ALL THE ENEMIES.

"WHEN ASHWATTHAMA BEGAN TO HARNESS THE HORSES TO HIS CHARIOT, KRITAVARMA AND KRIPACHARYA TOO GOT UP.

WAIT! ASHWATTHAMA, WE TOO WILL COME WITH YOU.

THEN HURRY UP. DON YOUR ARMOUR AND TAKE UP YOUR WEAPONS.

"THE THREE OF THEM PROCEEDED TO THE PANDAVA CAMP.

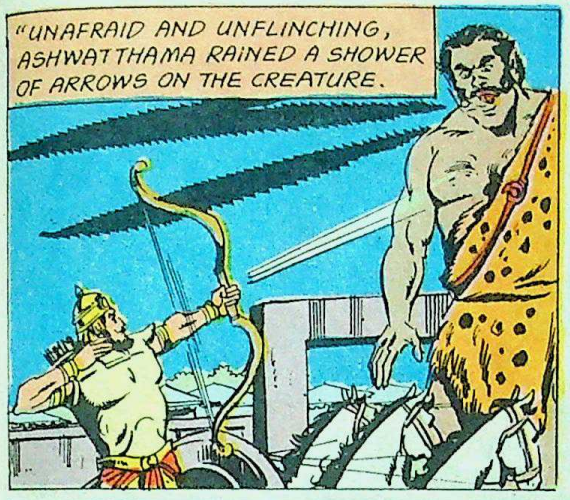
"ASHWATTHAMA WHISPERED TO HIS COMPANIONS —

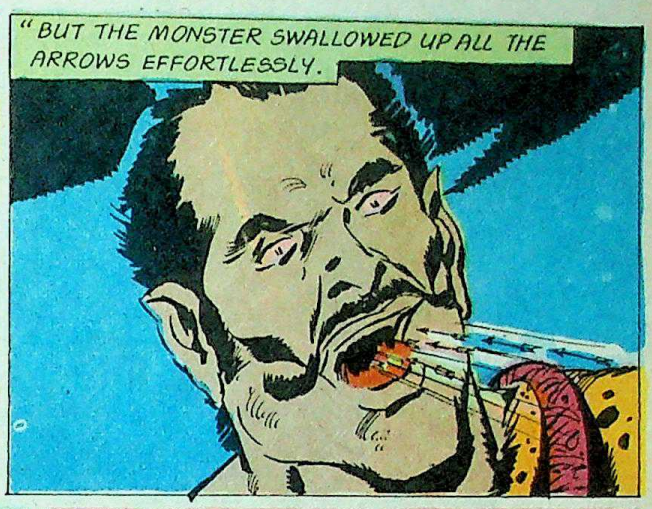
YOU GUARD THE GATE OF THE CAMP. I WILL ENTER THE CAMP NOW AND CREATE HAVOC. YOU TWO MAKE SURE NO ONE ESCAPES.

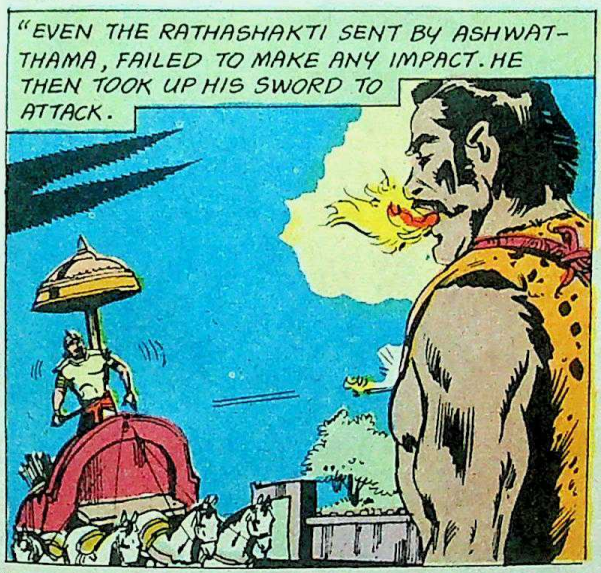
"AT THE GATE OF THE CAMP, A STRANGE SIGHT MET THEIR EYES. AN ENORMOUS MONSTER LOOMED LARGE IN THEIR PATH.

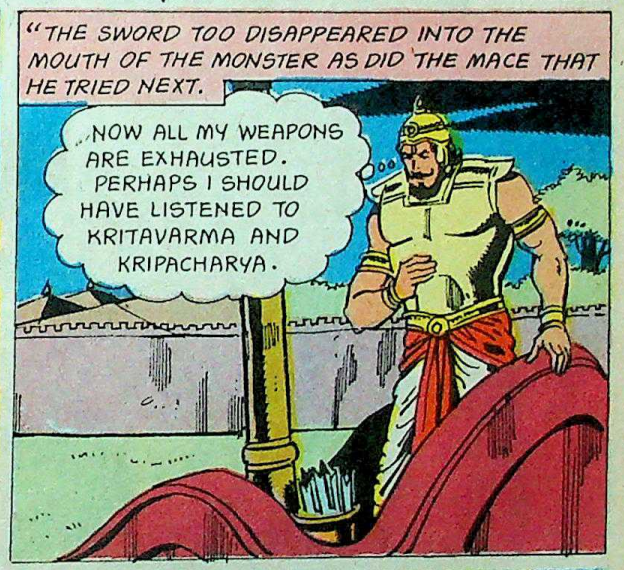
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Tirupati

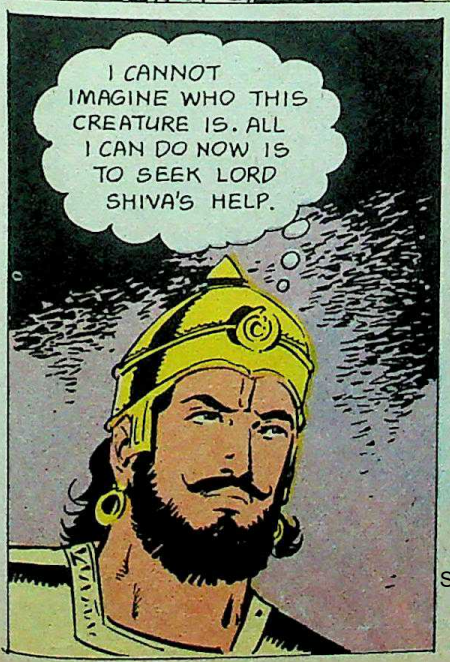
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

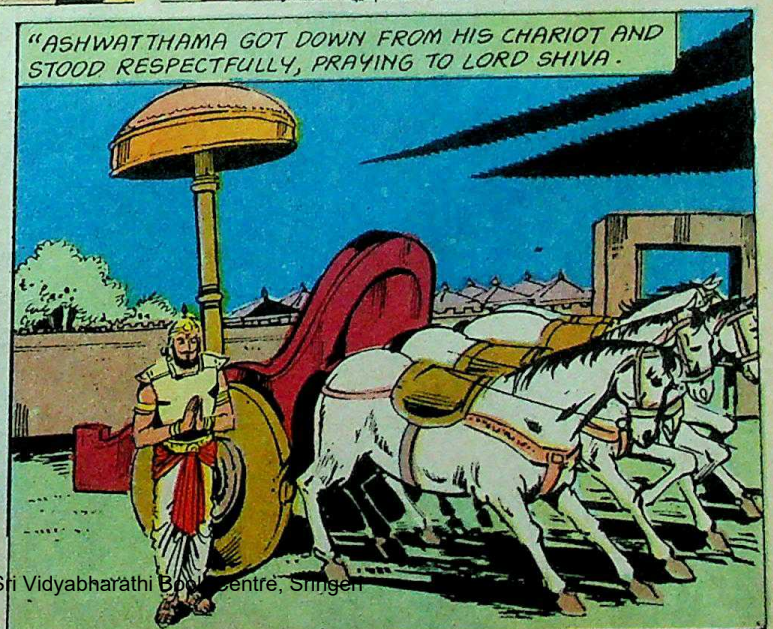












Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Shringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"WHEN HE MEDITATED FOR A WHILE, A GOLDEN ALTAR APPEARED BEFORE HIM. FROM IT EMERGED HUGE BEINGS WITH STRANGE FEATURES AND GROTESQUE LIMBS.

"THE GHASTLY CREATURES WHO DANCED AND ROMPED BEFORE HIM WERE ACTUALLY ATTENDANTS OF LORD SHIVA.

"REALISING THIS, ASHWATTHAMA CLIMBED INTO THE BLAZING ALTAR.

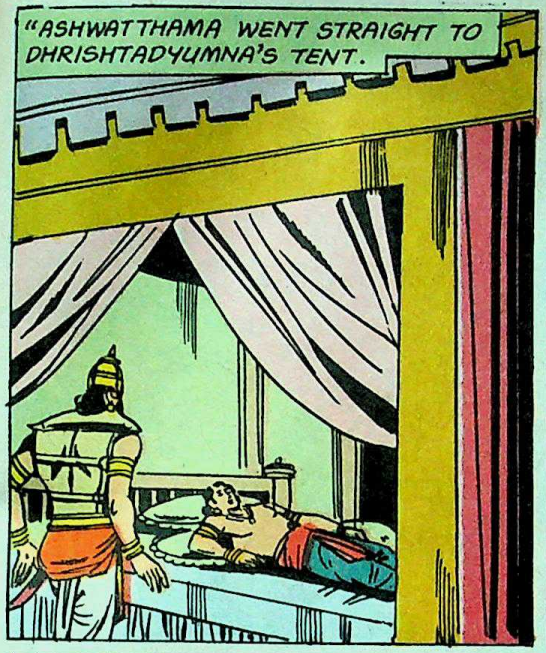
O LORD, I MAKE AN OFFERING OF MYSELF TO YOU. PLEASE ACCEPT MY GIFT.

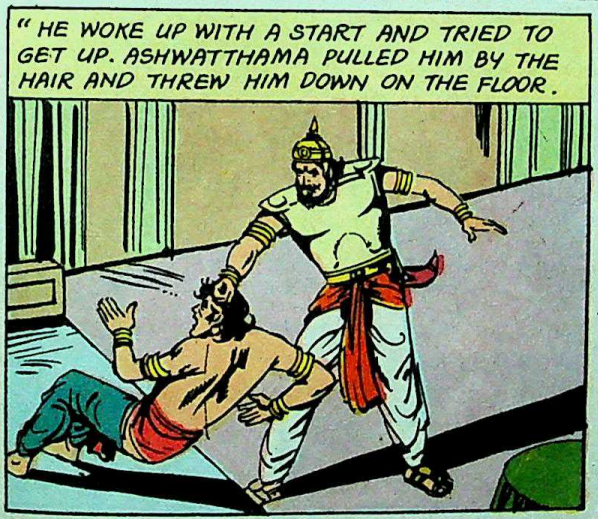
"LORD SHIVA APPEARED BEFORE HIM, AND SAID WITH A LAUGH—

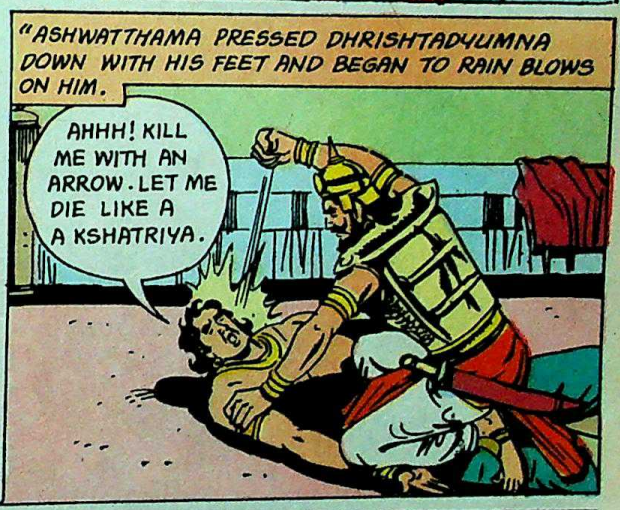
I WAS PROTECTING THE PANCHALAS FOR THE SAKE OF MY FAVOURITE DEVOTEE KRISHNA. BUT NOW THEIR LIFE IS AT AN END. HERE, TAKE THIS DAGGER.

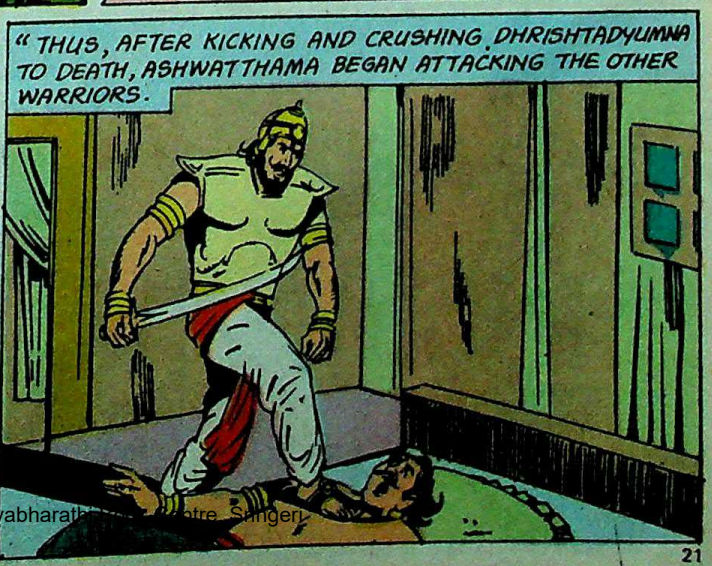
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri







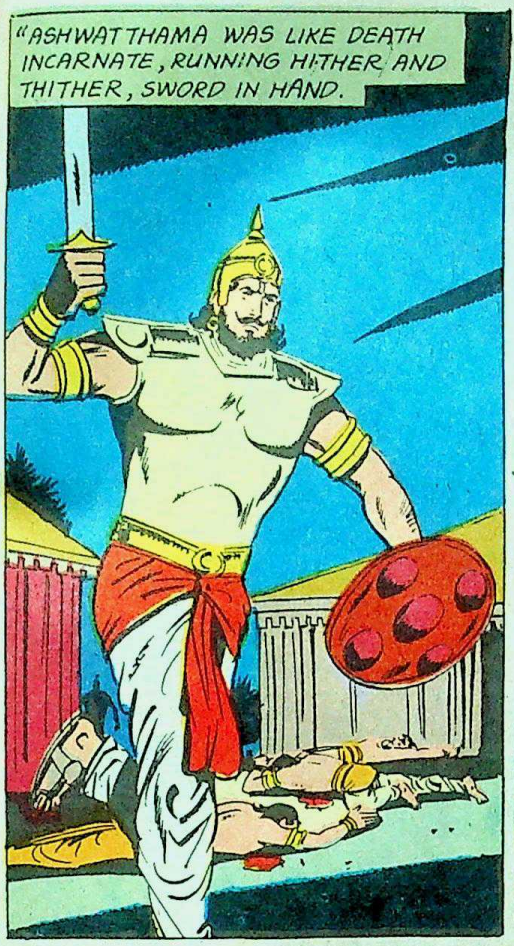


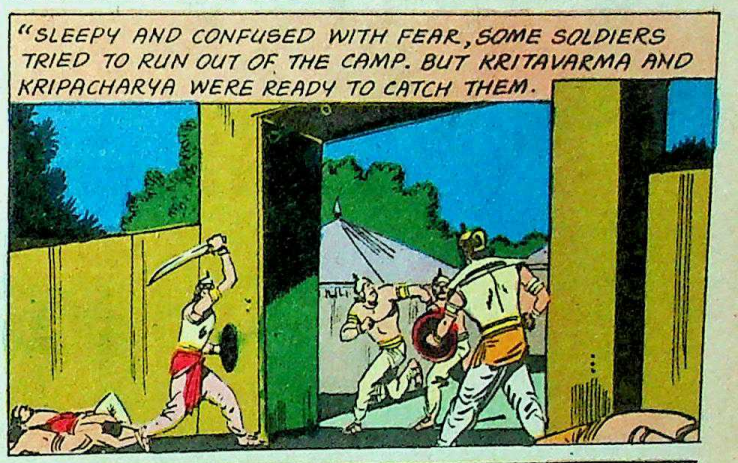
Sri Vidyabharathi Resource Centre, Sringeri

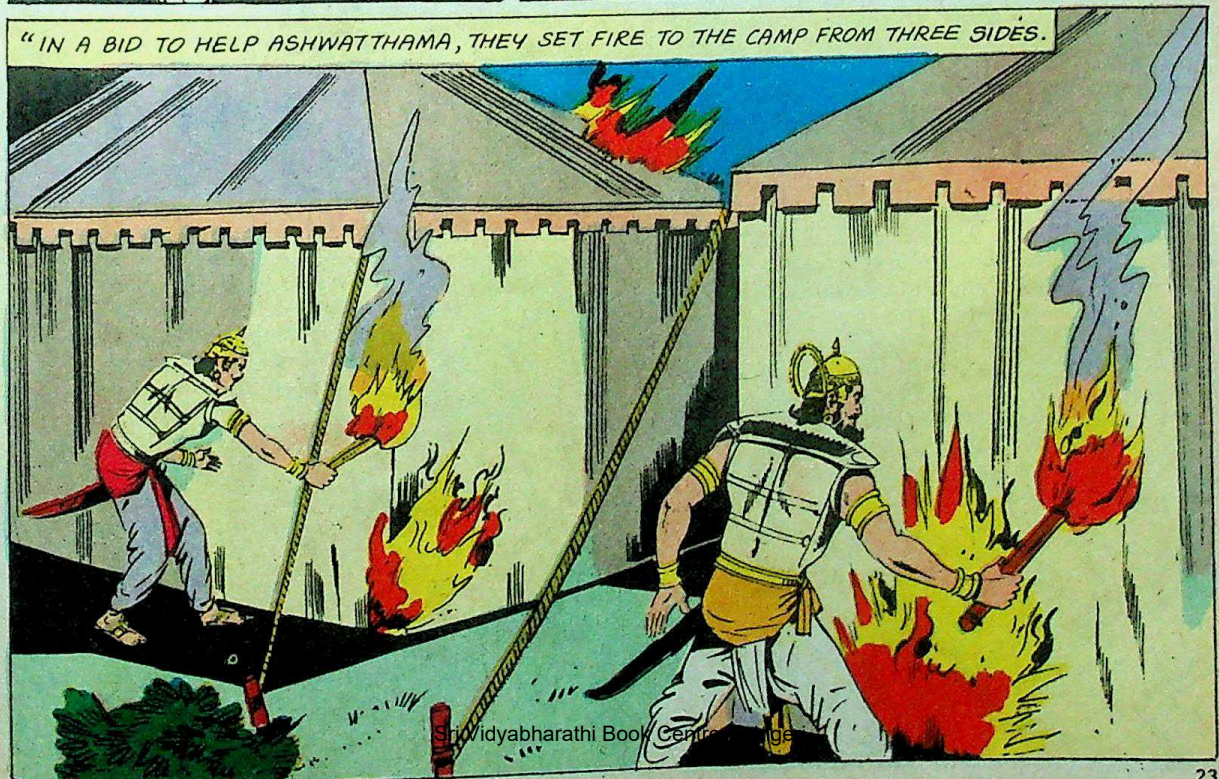
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri



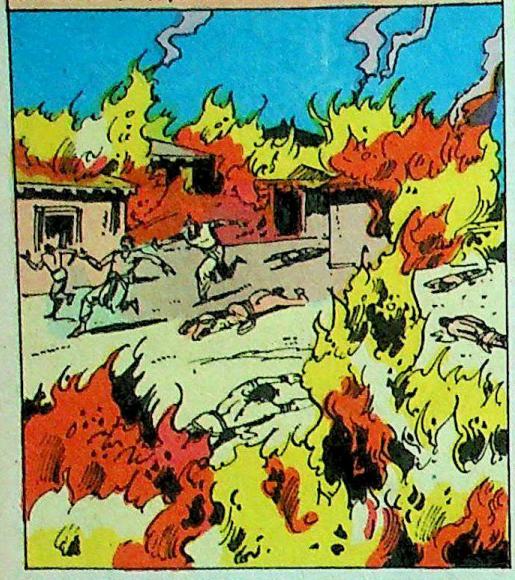




Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Bangalore

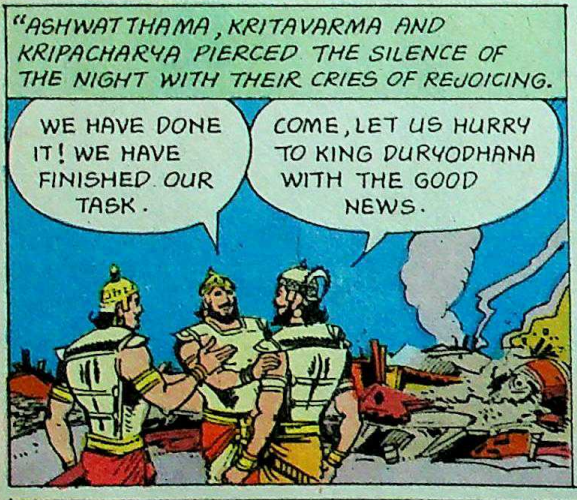
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF THE RAGING FIRE ASHWATTHAMA MANAGED TO DESTROY THE ENTIRE ARMY...



"...SO THAT WHEN HE EMERGED AT DAYBREAK AFTER THE MASSACRE, THE CAMP LAY AS SILENT AS IT HAD BEEN WHEN HE HAD ENTERED IT EARLIER IN THE NIGHT.

"ASHWATTHAMA, KRITAVARMA AND KRIPACHARYA PIERCED THE SILENCE OF THE NIGHT WITH THEIR CRIES OF REJOICING.



"WHEN THEY REACHED DURYODHANA, THEY FOUND HIM BARELY BREATHING.

"ASHWATTHAMA WIPED THE BLOOD SPOUTING FROM DURYODHANA'S MOUTH AND SAID —

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"THE NEWS REVIVED DURYODHANA LONG ENOUGH TO SAY —

ASHWATTHAMA! YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME WHAT BHEESHMA, DRONA OR KARNA COULD NOT DO. BLESS YOU! NOW WE WILL ALL MEET IN HEAVEN.

"WITH THESE WORDS, DURYODHANA BREATHED HIS LAST. THE MIGHTY WARRIOR WHO HAD BEEN THE FIRST TO ENTER THE BATTLEFIELD WAS AMONG THE LAST TO DIE.

"BRIEFLY EMBRACING THE DEPARTED KING DURYODHANA THE THREE WARRIORS LEFT THE PLACE.

"VAISHAMPAYANA CONTINUED HIS NARRATION —

WHEN SANJAYA HEARD THE NEWS OF DURYODHANA'S DEATH, HE LOST THE POWER OF THE DIVINE VISION BESTOWED ON HIM BY SAGE VYASA. MEANWHILE, DHRISHTADYUMNA'S CHARIOTEER HAD SOMEHOW ESCAPED THE MASSACRE AND RUSHED TO YUDHISHTHIRA WITH THE TERRIBLE NEWS.

"RELATING THE GRUESOME DETAILS OF THE MIDNIGHT MASSACRE, HE SAID—

O KING, I ALONE ESCAPED WHILE YOUR ENTIRE ARMY HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

"YUDHISHTHIRA FAINTED WITH SHOCK. SATYAKI CAUGHT HIM AS HE FELL.

© Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"ON RECOVERING, YUDHISHTHIRA LAMENTED ALOUD—

ALAS! I HAVE LOST ALL AFTER WINNING THE WAR. MY WARRIORS WHO HAD ESCAPED THE ARROWS OF THE MIGHTY KARNA AND DRONA HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THEIR OWN CARELESSNESS.

"AFTER SENDING NAKULA TO FETCH DRAUPADI, YUDHISHTHIRA SORROWFULLY WENT TO HIS CAMP WITH HIS OTHER BROTHERS.

"HE COULD NOT BEAR TO SEE THAT AWFUL SIGHT AND, CRYING INCONSOLABLY FELL DOWN IN A SWOON.

"EVEN AS THE OTHER PANDAVAS TRIED TO CONSOLE HIM, NAKULA ARRIVED ON THE SCENE WITH DRAUPADI.

"AGITATED AS SHE WAS WITH THE NEWS, THE SCENE OF MASSACRE WAS TOO TRAGIC A SIGHT FOR HER. BHEEMA CAUGHT HER JUST IN TIME AS SHE FAINTED.

"WHEN SHE RECOVERED A LITTLE, SHE GLARED AT YUDHISHTHIRA, AND SAID—

SHOULD I CONGRATULATE YOU ON CONQUERING THE EARTH AFTER SACRIFICING YOUR SONS?

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

I AM BURNING WITH RAGE AT THIS MONSTROUS ACT. NOW YOU MUST AVENGE OUR DEAR ONES' DEATHS. I SWEAR I WILL NOT MOVE FROM HERE TILL YOU KILL THAT WICKED SON OF DRONA.

"SHE TOOK UP A POSE OF MEDITATION AND SAT DOWN RIGHT THERE ON THE BATTLEFIELD. YUDHISHTHIRA TRIED TO REASON WITH HER.

YOU KNOW THAT YOUR BROTHERS AND SONS HAVE DIED LIKE HEROES ON THE BATTLEFIELD. NOW ASHWATTHAMA HAS ESCAPED INTO THE FOREST.

EVEN IF WE DO MANAGE TO KILL HIM, HOW WILL WE CONVINCE YOU OF HIS DEATH ?

I KNOW THAT ASHWATTHAMA HAS A JEWEL ON HIS HEAD. BRING IT TO ME.

"TURNING TO BHEEMA, SHE SAID—

BHEEMA DEAR, I KNOW YOU ARE THE BRAVEST OF MEN. DO THIS FAVOUR FOR ME.

INDEED I WILL.

"AT ONCE BHEEMA MOUNTED HIS CHARIOT AND, WITH NAKULA AS HIS CHARIOTEER, SET OUT TO FOLLOW ASHWATTHAMA'S TRAIL.

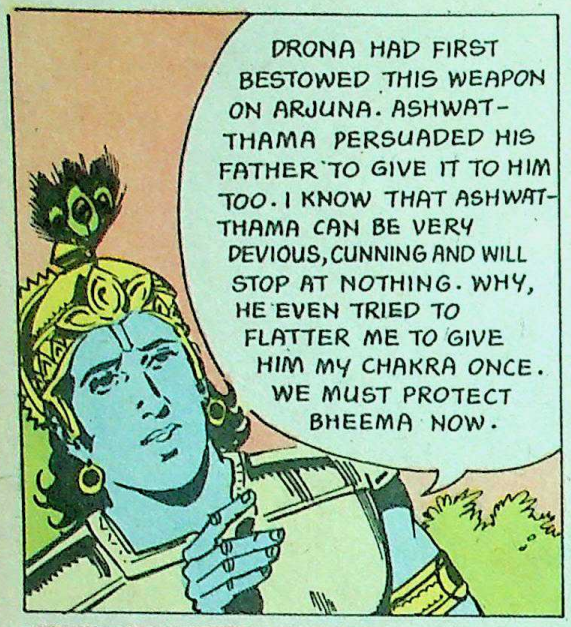
"WHEN THEY LEFT, KRISHNA SAID TO YUDHISHTHIRA —

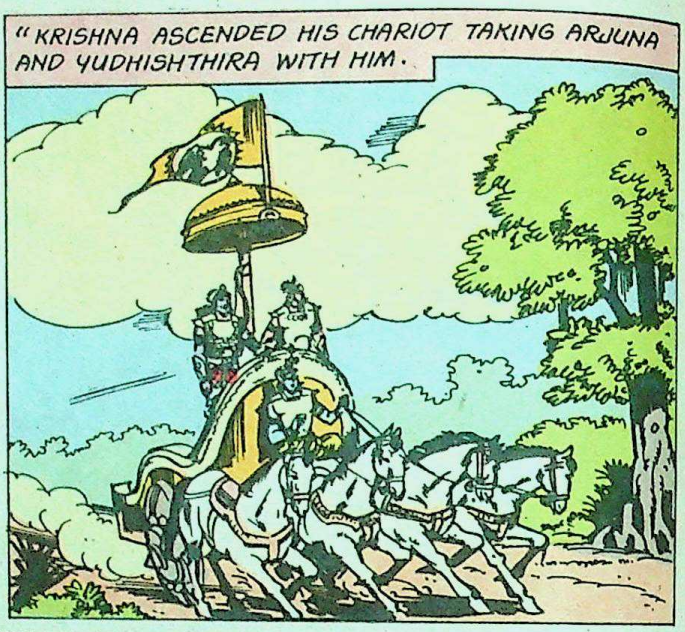
IT IS NOT SAFE TO LET BHEEMA GO ALONE. ASHWATTHAMA HAS IN HIS POSSESSION A POWERFUL WEAPON CALLED BRAHMASHIRA* WHICH CAN SET THE WORLD AFLAME.

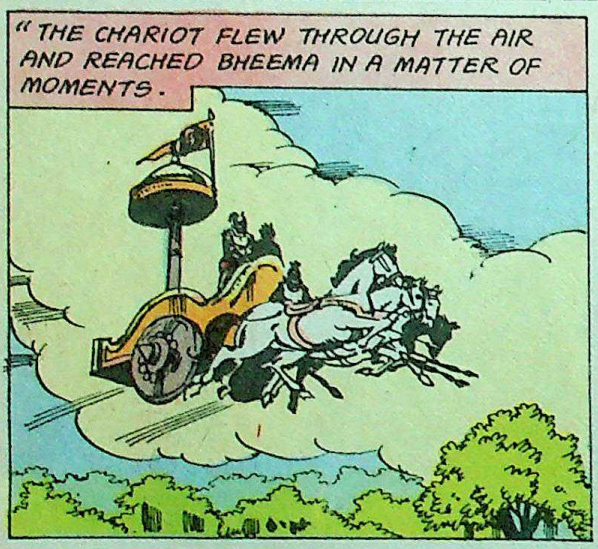
Sri Vidyaranya Sanskrit Book Centre, Sringeri

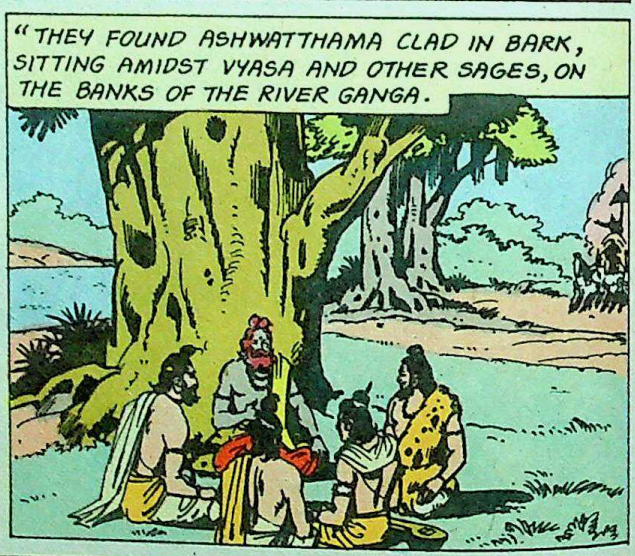
* CELESTIAL WEAPON

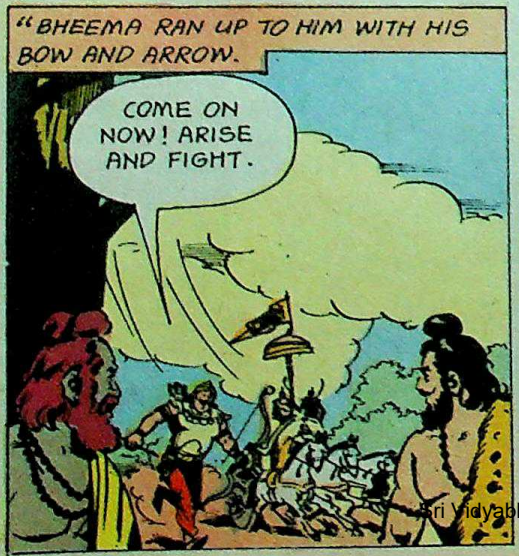
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

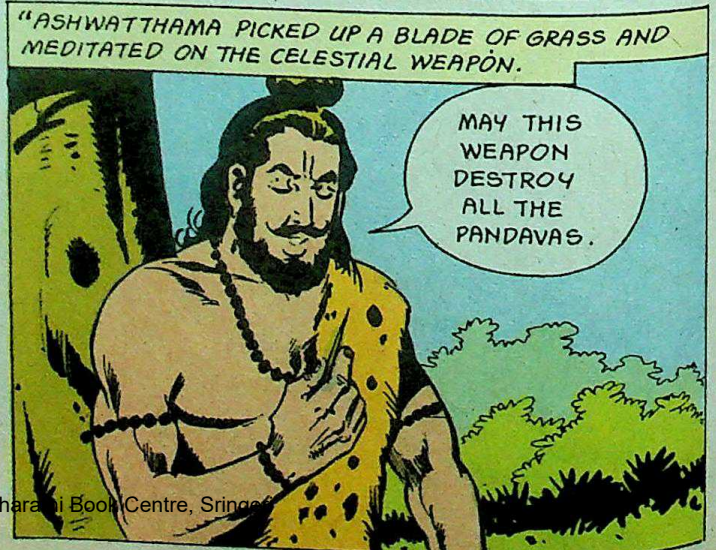












Sri Vidyabharati Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"NO SOONER HAD HE SAID THIS THAN ENORMOUS FLAMES BEGAN TO EMERGE FROM THAT BLADE OF GRASS.

"KRISHNA HAD READ ASHWATTHAMA'S MIND. HE SAID TO ARJUNA —

YOU TOO RECEIVED THIS WEAPON FROM DRONA. NOW IS THE TIME TO USE IT.

"JUMPING DOWN FROM THE CHARIOT, ARJUNA TOOK UP HIS BOW AND ARROW.

MAY THIS WEAPON COUNTER ASHWAT-THAMA'S WEAPON.

"THE ENTIRE WORLD APPEARED TO SHAKE AND TREMBLE WITH THE COMBINED EFFECT OF THE TWO POWERFUL WEAPONS.

"JUST THEN, THE SAGES VYASA AND NARADA, GOT UP AND STOOD BETWEEN ARJUNA AND ASHWATTHAMA.

NO ONE IN THE PAST HAS EVER DARED TO USE THIS WEAPON ON HUMAN BEINGS. HOW COULD BOTH OF YOU DO SO?

"ARJUNA SAID —

I USED IT TO COUNTER ASHWATTHAMA'S ATTACK. NOW I WILL CERTAINLY DO AS YOU SAY. I WILL TRY MY BEST TO RECALL IT.

Kalpataru Art Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"IT WAS NOT AN EASY WEAPON TO RECALL. HAVING OBTAINED IT AFTER SEVERE AUSTERITIES, ARJUNA HAD THE POWER AND ABILITY TO WITHDRAW IT.

"ASHWATTHAMA HOWEVER COULD NOT DO SO, MUCH AS HE TRIED. HE APPEALED TO VYASA.

I USED THIS WEAPON IN FEAR OF BHEEMA, SAYING, NOW MAY ALL PANDAVAS BE DESTROYED. BUT NOW I CANNOT WITHDRAW IT.

"SAGE VYASA SAID TO ASHWATTHAMA—

DO YOU KNOW THAT THE LAND WHERE SUCH TWO POWERFUL WEAPONS CLASH REMAINS RAINLESS AND PARCHED FOR TWELVE YEARS? THAT IS WHY ARJUNA DID NOT TRY TO DESTROY YOUR WEAPON.

THE PANDAVAS DO NOT WANT TO WIN BY UNFAIR MEANS. NOW TO COMPENSATE FOR YOUR WICKED ACT, GIVE THEM THE JEWEL FROM YOUR HEAD, AND ALSO RECALL YOUR WEAPON.

"ASHWATTHAMA REPLIED—

OH! THIS GEM IS MOST PRECIOUS TO ME. BUT I WILL GIVE IT UP IN DEFERENCE TO YOUR WISHES.

AS FOR THE WEAPON, I CANNOT RECALL IT. LET ITS EFFECT BE DIRECTED TO THE FUTURE PROGENY OF THE PANDAVAS IF NOT TO THEM.

Sri Vidyabharati Foundation-Chinmaya Mission

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

"ASHWATTHAMA'S CURSE WOULD HAVE AFFECTED THE UNBORN BABY OF UTTARA, ABHIMANYU'S WIDOW. BUT KRISHNA INTERVENED IN TIME —

YOU WICKED ASHWATTHAMA, DESPITE YOUR CURSE, THIS SON OF UTTARA WILL BE REVIVED AT BIRTH.

NOT ONLY WILL HE SURVIVE YOUR CURSE, BUT WILL GROW UP TO BE A MIGHTY KING, AND CONTINUE THE PANDAVA DYNASTY.

I TOO BLESS THE BOY WHO WILL BE CALLED PAREEKSHIT.

"THE PANDAVAS RETURNED IN HASTE TO DRAUPADI WITH THE PRECIOUS JEWEL. ASHWATTHAMA WENT MOROSELY INTO THE JUNGLE.

"BHEEMA PRESENTED THE GEM TO DRAUPADI.

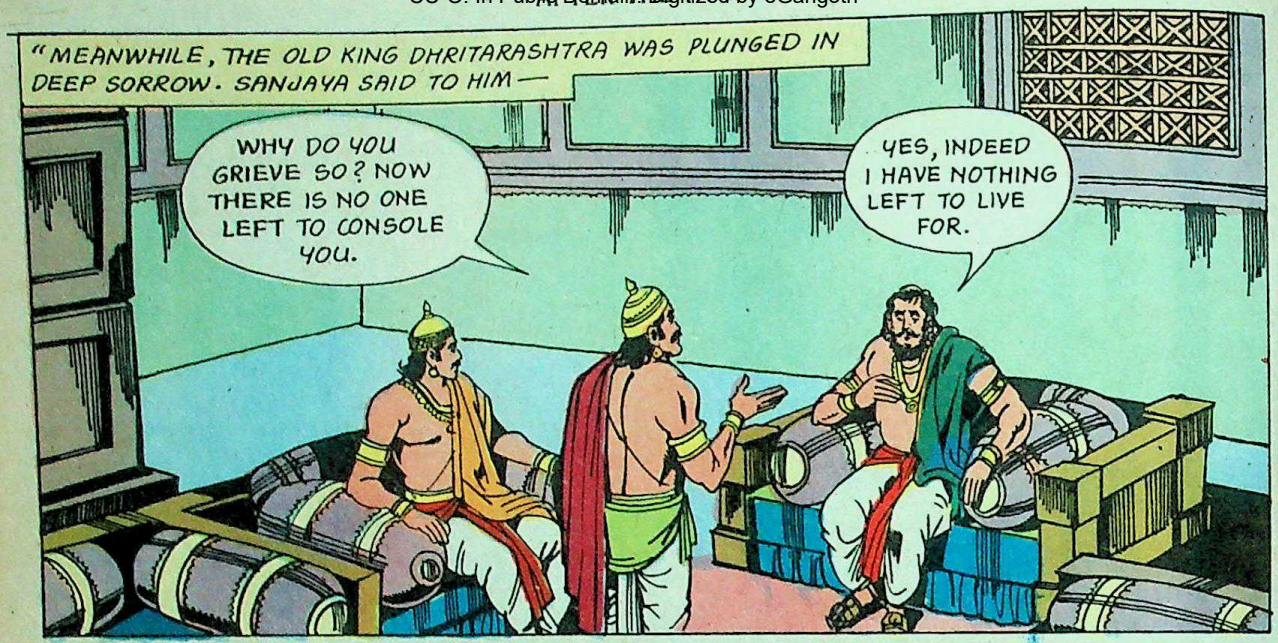
NOW ASHWATTHAMA IS DEFEATED AND DEMORALISED. BEING OUR GURU'S SON, WE HOWEVER, SPARED HIS LIFE.

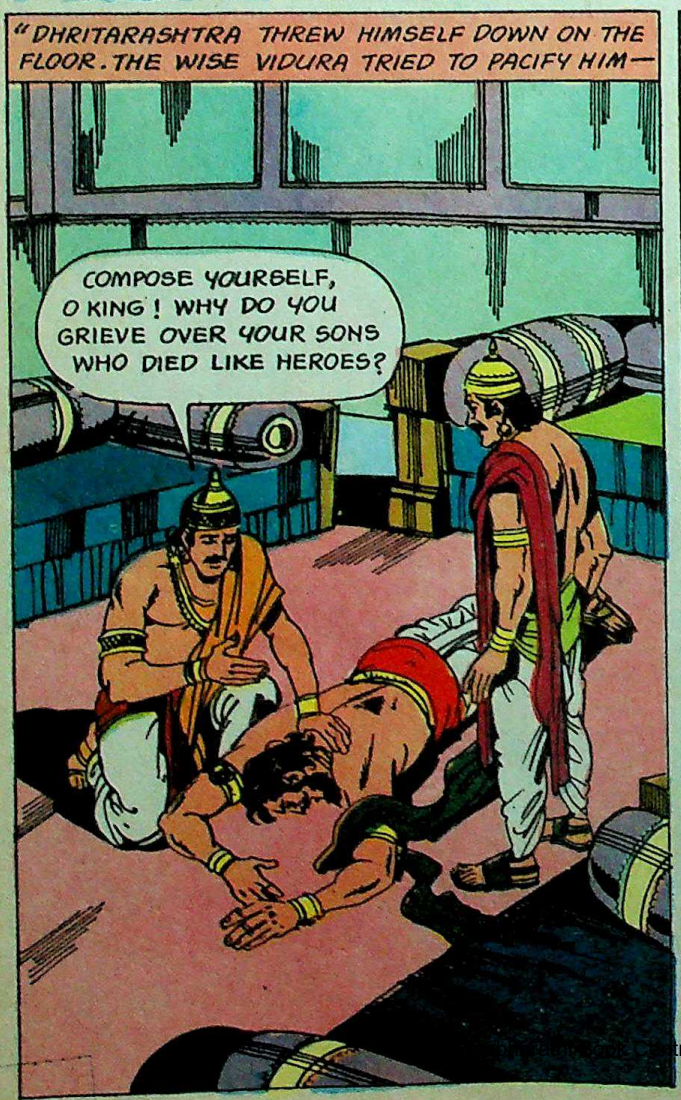
O YUDHISHTHIRA. LET THIS GEM ADORN YOUR FOREHEAD NOW.

AS YOU WISH.

Sri Vidyaranya Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri





CC-O. Mumukshu Bhawan Varanasi Collection. Digitized by eGangotri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

ANNOUNCING !

From the House of AMAR CHITRA KATHA

READ ALOUD

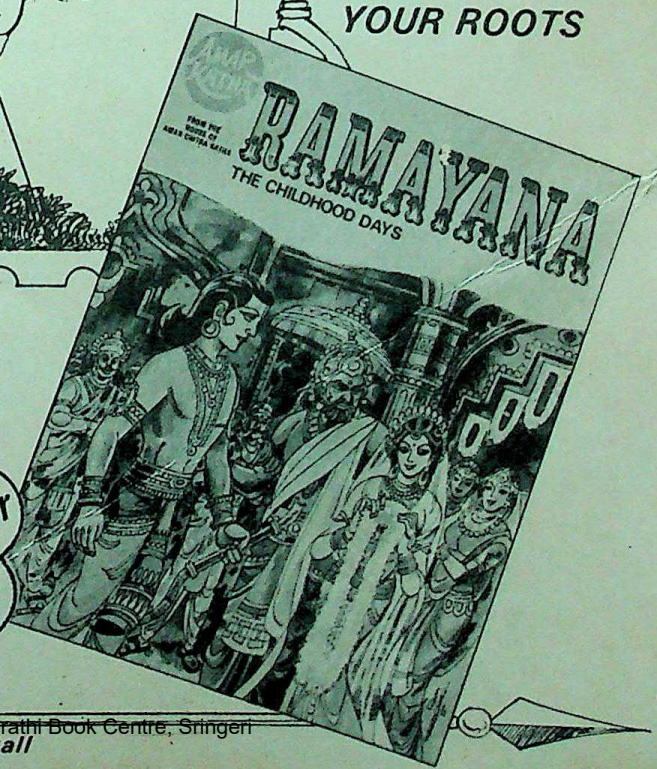
RAMAYANA

The first in the 4-volume series

AMAR CHITRA KATHA

Lavishly illustrated
Beautifully printed
Simply written
Edited by Uncle Pai

THE ROUTE TO YOUR ROOTS



Published by :

IBH

India Book House Pvt. Ltd.

Mahalaxmi Chambers
22, Bhulabhai Desai Road,
Bombay 400 026

Price Rs. 20/- per Volume

Available at all leading book stall

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

AMAR CHITRA KATHA

Give your child a gift he'll treasure forever–the gift of his own heritage in these specially designed

BUMPER ISSUES

each containing three Amar Chitra Katha titles :

1. Tales of Hanuman
2. Tales of Birbal
3. Tales from the Panchatantra

N-4. Tales of Buddha

5. Tales of the Mother Goddess
6. The Sons of Shiva
7. Adventures of Krishna
8. Tales from the Hitopadesha
9. More tales from Panchatantra
10. Tales of Humour
11. The sons of the Pandavas

N-12. Devotees of Vishnu

13. Jataka Tales– Animal Stories

N-14. More tales of Birbal

15. Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and his tales
16. Tales from the Mahabharata

N-17. Jataka Tales—Stories of Wisdom

N-18. Jataka Tales—Stories of Wit

N-20. Heroes of the Mahabhareta

N-21. Dasha Avatar

N-22. The Ramayana

N-23. Jesus Christ

N-24. Great Sons of Bengal

N-25. Tales of Valiant Queens

N-26. Tales of Krishna

N-27. Tales of Love and Devotion

N-29. Tales of Indra

Distributed by :
India Book House Pvt. Ltd.

Rs. 20/- each

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Trust, Sringeri